FRIDAY'S JACKPOT
Lotto MAX
$40 MILLION
estimated

ETOBICOKE'S VOTTO WINS LOU MARSH
SLUGGER IS CANADA'S TOP ATHLETE {page 44}

TRAPPED
300 MOTORISTS MAROONED BY SNOW NEAR SARNIA {page 12}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Katie. Globes

▶ Actress Katie Holmes sits onstage during the announcement of the 68th annual Golden Globes Award nominations in Beverly Hills yesterday.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Golden Globe nominees announced

The British monarchy tale The King's Speech led Golden Globe nominations yesterday with seven. Glee captured five for TV contenders. The ceremony will be held Jan. 16. More coverage, page 28

Some Christmas trimmings

Provincial finance minister announces major government cuts ◐ Perks eliminated, agencies to be shut or merged to shave Ontario's $19B deficit

Ontario's Liberal government plans to get rid of at least 12 of its 259 agencies and eliminate perks like golf club and gym memberships for public servants, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said yesterday.

The number of government agencies will be reduced by five per cent as part of the government's cost-cutting plans to trim the near $19-billion deficit, Duncan announced in a speech to the Canadian Club.

"In these difficult times, we need to look under every stone to cut back on agencies with overlapping functions or agencies whose function could either cease to exist or simply be performed more efficiently by other means," he said.

The government has already identified more than a dozen Children's Aid Societies that will be consolidated into half that number, and other CAS agencies have asked to be added to the list, said Duncan.

"Change can be difficult, but these changes are essential," he said.

However, the Opposition said there are much bigger agencies that should be eliminated, such as the Ontario Power Authority and Local Health Integration Networks set up by the Liberals across Ontario.

Duncan also announced a ban on golf club and gym memberships, season tickets to sporting events, and lump sum payments for travel without receipts, throughout the broader public service.

"Honest to God, you could take any three letters of the alphabet, put them in any order that you want to, and you'll get some Ontario government agency, board or commission that you've never heard of but you're paying tens of millions of dollars a year to sustain."
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LEADER TIM HUDAK

"This government wouldn't put up with the box at the Air Canada Centre, and we won't put up with unacceptable perks paid for with hard-earned taxpayer ... dollars," he said. Auditor's reports pointing out frills and perks paid for with tax dollars "drive me crazy," admitted the finance minister.

"We don't want to be spending time dealing with ACC boxes, nanny fees and dry cleaning," said Duncan.

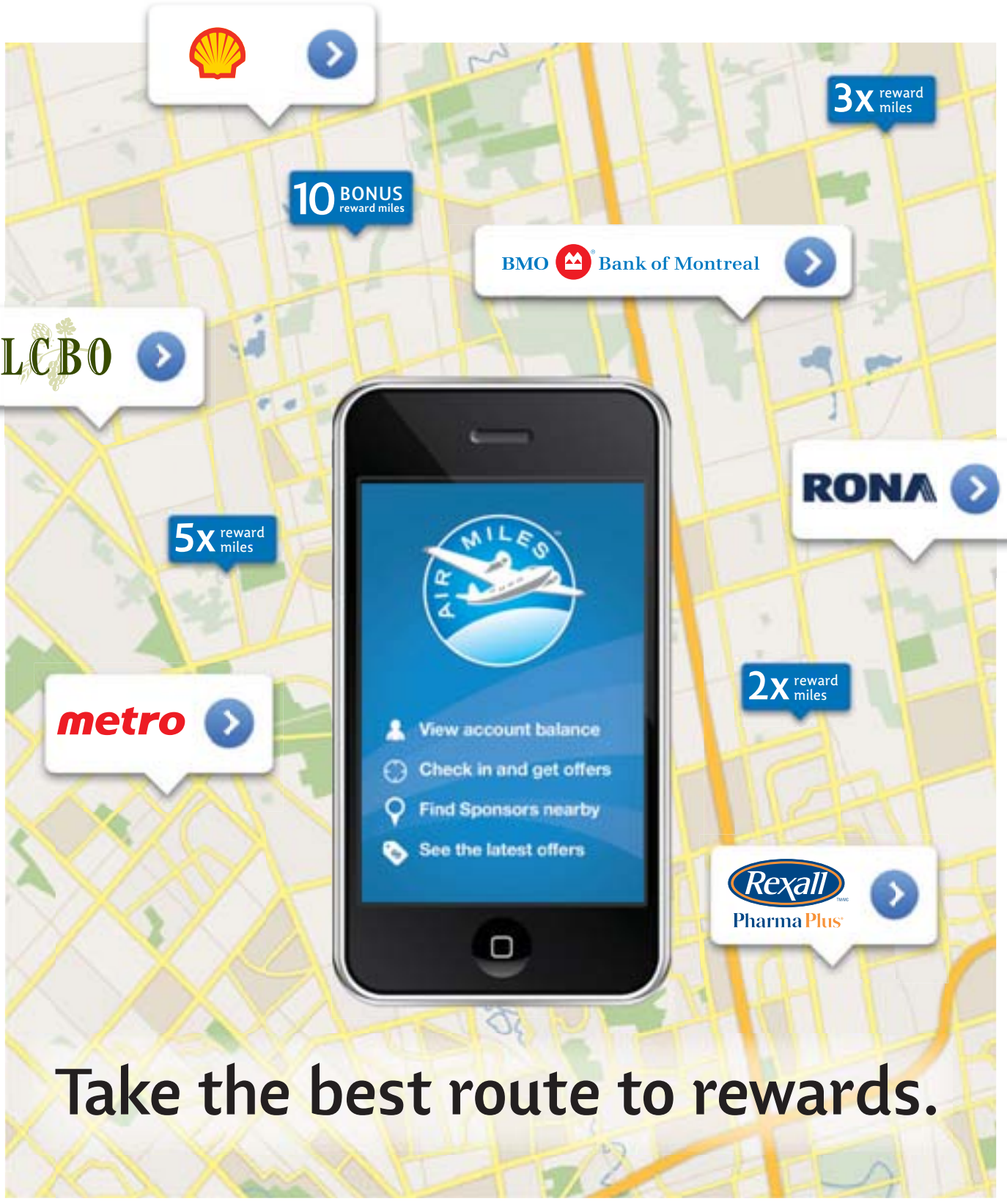
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Violent protests rock Italy

Berlusconi survives two confidence votes {page 16}

Revelstoke raises the bar

Whistler not the only world-class ski resort in B.C. {pages 34-35}



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Extreme cold alert lifted for the city

The city cancelled Toronto's extreme cold alert late yesterday morning.

Public health officials had issued the alert Monday and extended it to early yesterday. Environment Canada predicts the temperature will reach a high of –2 C today.

The city issues an alert when Environment Canada predicts temperatures of –15 C or lower without the wind chill, or extreme weather conditions such as storms with sudden drops in temperature.

In 2009-10, the city issued four alerts covering a period of seven days.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

–8 C **Chilly conditions will continue to ease as we head into the weekend, with a predicted high of –1 C and low of –8 C tomorrow and a high of 0 C and low of –7 C on Friday.**

Students returning to York U.

It should be business as usual at York University today after a fire in the boiler room knocked out power at the Keele campus Monday afternoon.

Spokesman Alex Bilyk said the heat was back on at the university. Students who were housed in nearby hotels or spent the night with family or friends started to return to the campus.

Bilyk said exams will be rescheduled and will not affect the holidays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Mayor Rob Ford has vowed about $230 million in spending cuts this year, yet he has promised to retain services.

T.O. turning into a city of poverty?

Major reason for dropping income levels is loss of manufacturing jobs, shift to service sector employment, says affordable housing expert

Toronto is headed toward a scenario where nearly two-thirds of residents will be in the low-income bracket by 2025, according to a study to be released today.

An update of the Three Cities within Toronto study from 2007 continues to paint a "devastating picture" of income "segregation" by neighbourhoods in the city, according to one source who has seen the report. The latest update points out that if trends continue, by 2025 a total of 10 per cent of the city will be middle-income earners, 30 per cent upper middle income, and a whopping 60 per cent in the low to very low-income bracket, sources say.

That's quite a swing from 1970 when 66 per cent of Toronto neighbourhoods were middle income, 15 per cent upper income, and 19 per cent low income.

The latest study doesn't blame municipal governments for the income trends, but one observer pointed out that the report's release is timely given the new fiscally-minded administration at city hall headed by newly-elected Mayor Rob Ford.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Previous study

- **Update released last year** showed that 15 of Toronto's middle-income neighbourhoods had simply disappeared.
- **The majority** of the areas were found to have reverted to low income, where individual earnings were 20 to 40 per cent less than the city average.

1 news

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SAFETY

Reward use of snow tires: Coalition

Even if snow tires aren't mandatory, Queen's Park should reward drivers for using them on their vehicles, says a coalition of safety, health-care and industry groups.

The Winter Driving Safety Coalition wants the province to introduce a rebate "that is significant enough that drivers who have not equipped their vehicle with winter tires will consider doing so," said Faye Lyons of the Canadian Automobile Association.

She declined to say how big a financial incentive snow tire users should get, only that the coalition was working with the government. Insurance premium rebates could be another potential incentive.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Better service the top priority for TTC chair

Job descriptions, qualifications and performance expectations all the way through the organization need to be reviewed, says councillor

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ New TTC chair Karen Stintz has set up the first transit commission meeting for today.

Karen Stintz isn't an engineer and knows that being named chair of the Toronto Transit Commission's board doesn't make her one.

But she is a customer — a commuter all too familiar with the smells and contortions of a packed rush-hour train.

"I do see myself as a typical transit user. I live near the subway, I work near the subway and I take my kids on transit. We are a one-car family. I am actually the demographic transit needs to reach if we're going to realize our goals of having it be the preference, if we're going to reduce our gridlock," she said.

That's why the third-term Eglinton-Lawrence city councillor is hanging her reputation on the TTC's customer service — specifically cleaner stations, improved accessibility, modernized fare payment, washrooms and less crowding.

She is confident in her ability to reform the TTC's reputation and navigate the political situation in which she finds herself — engineering the transition from the Transit City light-rail plan of former mayor David Miller into new Mayor Rob Ford's subway vision.

"(Riders) don't need to find a seat, but they need to know they're not going to be squished. They need to know they can use the escalators, that it's going to be a clean and positive experience."
COUN. KAREN STINTZ

"We're now taking a look at the plan and seeing if it can incorporate some of Mayor Ford's goals ... I think we can get to a plan that delivers on Mayor Ford's vision and also ensures we build transit during my term," Stintz said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Winners sister chain coming to Canada

A U.S.-based sister chain to Winners will open its first Canadian stores next year, including one in the now defunct Circa nightclub in Toronto's Entertainment District, the property owner has confirmed.

The Circa site is one of at least four scheduled to open next year as Marshalls makes its move into Canada, the chief executive of RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust said in an interview.

"We have re-leased it to a Marshalls," RioCan president and chief executive officer Ed Sonshine said of the former nightclub space located on John Street between King and Richmond streets.

The first three Marshalls are set to open next spring, one at Warden and Eglinton, one at the Colossus Centre at highways 407 and 400, and one in the Durham Centre in Ajax, he said.

17.8%
TJX Cos. saw sales at its 297 existing Canadian chains, Winners and HomeSense, rise 17.8 per cent year over year by the end of October.

The store in the former Circa club will not open until later in 2011.

Marshalls is similar to Winners in that it carries mainly off-price brand-name clothing and housewares.

It carries a somewhat broader range of goods than a typical Winners, but not as much as a department store, said Wendy Evans, president of consulting firm Evans & Company,

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Infectious diseases kill nearly 5K a year: Report

Infectious diseases kill nearly 4,900 people in Ontario each year, and cause more than seven million illnesses, estimates a report released yesterday.

The study looked at the burden of illness — healthy years lost — and found the top 10 culprits were hepatitis C, Streptococcus pneumoniae, human papillomavirus, hepatitis B, E. coli, HIV-AIDS, Staphylococcus aureus, influenza, C. difficile and rhinoviruses, or the common cold.

The total burden from all infectious diseases is roughly equal to 25 per cent of the burden of all cancers, the report said.

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Province to spend $25M on autism services

Parents' complaints have ranged from long waits for treatment to having to go into debt to pay for it

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Laurel Broten

Ontario will expand services to help children with autism spectrum disorders starting in late spring, Children and Youth Services Minister Laurel Broten said yesterday.

The province will spend $25 million a year to provide Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) services and support in community agencies and centres, schools and homes.

Parents have long asked for ABA services, which will help an estimated 8,000 children and youth with autism, Broten said.

"We continue to take steps forward," she said in an interview.

"And that is, in large measure, to keep up to date with the research and knowledge that we get every day about how best to support kids and their families."

The government will also establish a committee of experts next fall to provide advice on emerging research to help children with autism, she said.

Ontario already funds a more intensive form of ABA — called intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) therapy — for 1,446 children and youth, which is offered to kids at the more severe end of the autism spectrum.

ABA focuses on developing basic life and communication skills, such as getting ready for school, Broten said. It will also be available to all kids along the autism spectrum, not just the more severe cases.

Taline Sagharian, whose son Christopher has autism, said the move to expand services is a "positive" step, but one that leaves a lot of unanswered questions.

It's still unclear what kind of services will be offered and where they'll be delivered, she said.

Some schools have therapists to provide IBI therapy, but not in regular classrooms. The government argues that the one-on-one treatments work better in a separate space.

"What I'm wondering is, are they going to now allow these children to be able to access IBI in public school together?" said Sagharian, who battled the government in court over funding for specialized autism treatment.

Many parents are also concerned that the government is setting benchmarks to cut children off therapy prematurely, she said.

"It looks promising, but I have a lot of questions right now and we'll have to see," Sagharian said. "We just need the answers."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 in 150

Autism spectrum disorders affect about one in 150 children in Ontario. It also affects four times more boys than girls.

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Tell us who rocked your 2010

Musicians, artists and athletes — all made an impact in Toronto in 2010.

Torontonians derailed the gravy train by electing Rob Ford as mayor in a landslide, while rapper-singer Drake became one of the most sought-after collaborators in music.

Maybe you like one our baseball long-bombers: Jose Bautista had a record-setting summer for the Jays, and Richview Collegiate's own Joey Votto was National League MVP. Tell us yours.

Charges laid

- Dang, who was working toward a finance degree at York University, died on his mother's birthday.
- Ariaratnam, a Canadian citizen who lives in St. Catharines and Toronto, has been charged with second-degree murder.
- Police found the damaged SUV at a Toronto auto body shop and two days later identified a suspect and issued his photograph.

Arrested at airport

A suspect wanted in connection with a hit-and-run slaying in Toronto's entertainment district was arrested at Pearson airport yesterday.

Naveen Ariaratnam, 26, who was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for the murder of Vincent Dang, 20, of Concord, was arrested after getting off a flight from Sri Lanka.

"Canada border services was made aware he was on the flight and they arrested him after it landed," said Const. Wendy Drummond of the Toronto Police Service.

Dang was with friends at Rockwood Nightclub on Mercer Street when a dispute occurred between two groups of patrons and continued on the street outside at about 2:30 a.m. on Saturday Nov. 27.

Police said a man leaving in an SUV on Wellington St. with three to five passengers aboard made a u-turn and drove directly at Dang, who was on a sidewalk with friends. The vehicle then fled. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Protest group faces libel suit

A Vaughan protest group has become the target of a $100,000 libel suit after it made allegations of corruption during the municipal election campaign.

Time For Change Vaughan took out newspaper ads attacking certain candidates and endorsing others, and suggesting a condominium development had been secretly approved for part of the lands purchased for a hospital.

"The accomplishments (of the hospital corporation) achieved to date have been jeopardized," says the statement of claim filed two weeks ago in Superior Court.

Time For Change Vaughan has yet to file a statement of defence.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Defendants

- **Time For Change Vaughan** and its founder, Antony Niro, are named as defendants in the suit brought by the non-profit corporation formed to build the hospital and provide health services.
- **Municipal,** regional, provincial and federal governments have committed significant funds toward the project.

Rengel killer appeals adult life sentence

Crown argues youth term cannot hold David Bagshaw accountable

Anything less than an adult sentence won't adequately protect the public from a young man who stabbed a 14-year-old girl to death in exchange for sex with his girlfriend, the Crown argues as the man appeals his sentence.

David Bagshaw is appealing his life sentence, arguing the maximum youth sentence of 10 years, in addition to his 21 months spent in pretrial custody, was more appropriate.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario is set to hear arguments today.

Psychiatrists have reported Bagshaw is at a substantial risk to violently reoffend. He has a long history of anger issues, anti-social behaviour and aggression that continued even during his incarceration, the Crown said.

Superior Court Justice Ian Nordheimer erred in granting Bagshaw credit for time served, his lawyer, Delmar Doucette, argues in material filed with the court. The judge was not obliged to do so, Doucette said.

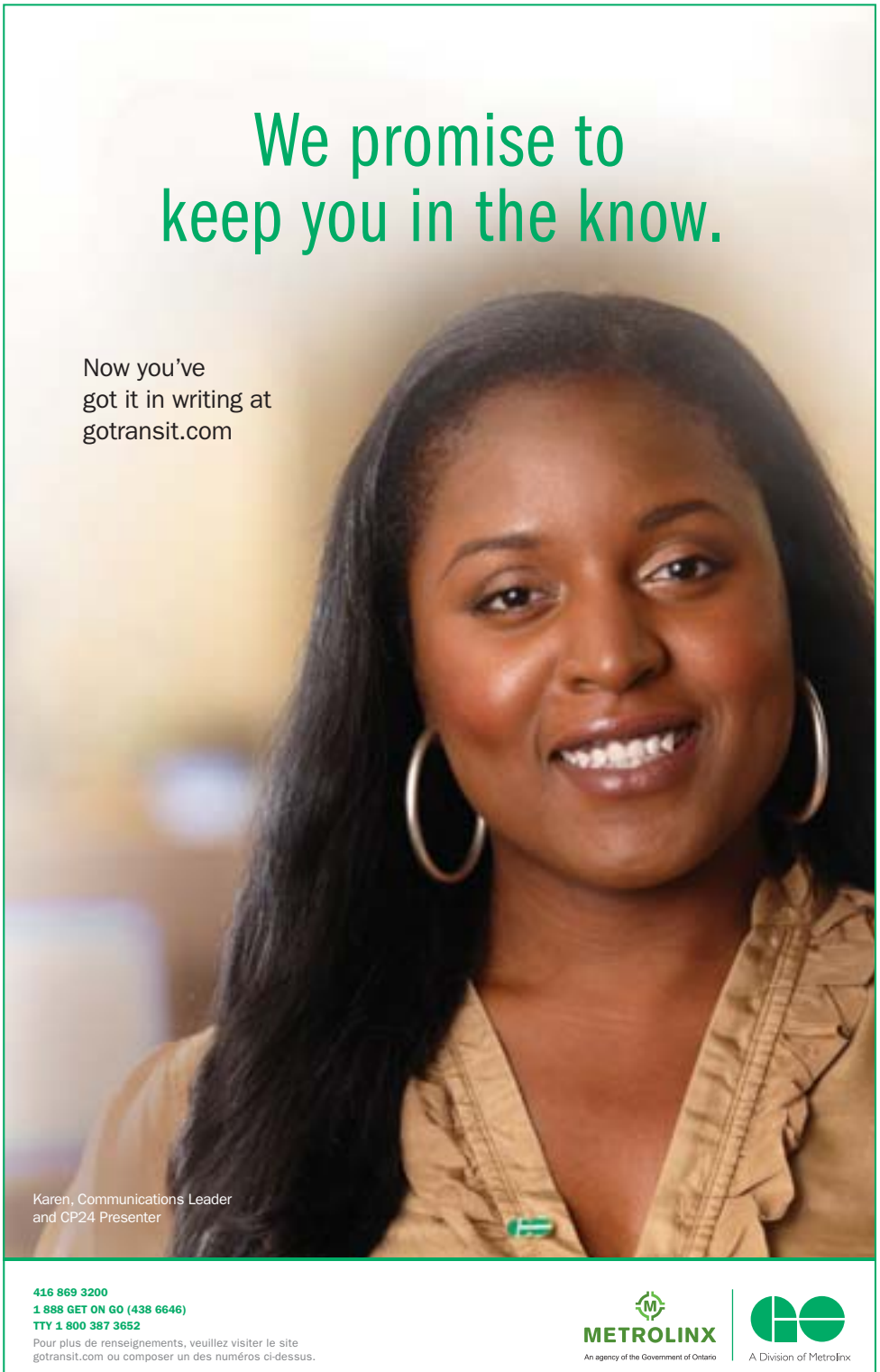
If credit is granted it reduces the amount of time that can be served under a youth sentence, Doucette said, therefore leaving less time in which to become rehabilitated and necessitating an adult sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

David Bagshaw, above, was just four days shy of his 18th birthday when he lured Stefanie Rengel out of her Toronto home on New Year's Day 2008, stabbed her six times with a eight-inch kitchen knife and left her to die in a snowbank.

- **He pleaded guilty** to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life with no chance of parole for 10 years — the maximum for a 17-year-old offender being sentenced as an adult.
- **Melissa Todorovic,** his 15-year-old girlfriend at the time, was sentenced as an adult to life with no chance of parole for seven years — the maximum adult sentence for someone her age.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Haiti tops Canadian Facebook topics

Justin Bieber in top 10 internationally, but can't top the World Cup or 'HMU'

Canadian Facebook users talked most about Haiti, cancer, the Olympics, Jersey Shore, hockey, FarmVille, the World Cup, Call of Duty: Black Ops, Urban Dictionary and Justin Bieber in 2010.

Facebook is the latest web giant to name Bieber as one of the trends of the year, not just in Canada, but globally.

The 16-year-old pop star from Stratford was sixth on Facebook's global top-10 list of the year's biggest trends, and 10th on the Canadian list. In recent days, Google and Twitter also said Bieber was one of the most active topics of the year.

While Bieber mentions on Facebook were popular on the site last year, too, they continued to grow throughout the year. In a blog post, Facebook said Bieber's appearance on the MTV Video Music Awards in September resulted in the most mentions of him.

Haiti was No. 1 on the Canadian list — probably owing to the large community of Haitians in Canada, mostly in Quebec — and fifth internationally.

The World Cup and Bieber were the only other popular Canadian terms to make the global list.

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Justin Bieber

Overall, the No. 1 trend on Facebook was the acronym "HMU," which stands for "hit me up," digital slang for "get in contact." Facebook said the trend started slowly sometime in mid-2009 and picked up steam throughout the year.

The second biggest trend was talk about the World Cup, which at times represented half of the status updates posted to Facebook.

Talk about the year's big movies — including Toy Story 3, The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, Inception, Alice In Wonderland and Iron Man 2 — was third on the list, while the iPad and iPhone 4 were fourth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Layoffs at mental health centre

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences in Whitby says it's laying off 52 workers.

Ontario Shores said the layoffs are due to changes to its programs and services aimed at improving patient care.

The facility said it is also projecting the creation of 33 new positions as it moves to provide a greater focus on assessment and stabilization services in adolescents.

Ontario Public Service Employees Union president Smokey Thomas said 28 of those facing layoff are child and youth workers.

Thomas said this suggests the staff mix is being altered away from highly trained child and youth workers to more general health-care nursing staff.

"For these youth, this program ended the revolving door," Thomas said yesterday.

52 The number of people who are losing their jobs at Ocean Shores. The facility says it also plans to create 33 new positions.

"Any minimal savings from this action will likely be multiplied many times over as costs to elsewhere in the system," he said.

Ontario Shores said the changes will help it respond to the needs of the communities it serves.

"At the core of our work is our service to patients," said president Glenna Raymond. "A tremendous amount of thoughtful planning and consideration went into these changes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Bandit robs casino of $1.5M

STICK-UP. An armed bandit escaped yesterday on a motorcycle after stealing at least $1.5 million US in casino chips from the posh Bellagio resort in Las Vegas, police said.

The 3:50 a.m. robbery at a craps table happened "about as quick as you can do it," when a man wearing a motorcycle helmet pulled a gun on patrons, police Lt. Clinton Nichols said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. court stays execution

DEATH ROW. Montana's top court has upheld a stay of execution for the only Canadian on death row in the United States, siding with the ruling of Judge Jeffrey Sherlock, meaning Ronald Smith, 53, will not face death at the end of next month.

Sherlock is presiding over a civil suit that was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, which argues that Montana's method of lethal injection is unconstitutionally cruel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Storm rages in Atlantic Canada

WEATHER. Powerful winds and rain battered the Maritimes yesterday, partially tearing off the roof of a retirement home, knocking out power for tens of thousands of people and causing New Brunswick's St. John River to swell near its banks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I felt a thunder in my body.'

A new book by the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at George W. Bush describes the buildup to, and the aftermath of, the iconic incident. Scan this code for the story.

Assange gets bail but remains in jail

WikiLeaks founder told he'd be let go Less than two hours later, he learned he'd spend more time locked up

AKIRA SUEMORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange reacts behind the heavily tinted window of a police van as he arrives at Wandsworth Prison in London yesterday.

A British judge ordered Julian Assange released on $316,000 US bail yesterday, but the WikiLeaks founder will remain in custody for at least two more days after Swedish prosecutors challenged that decision.

Assange has already spent a week in a U.K. jail following his surrender to British police over a Swedish sex-crimes warrant. He denies any wrongdoing and has already refused to voluntarily surrender to Sweden's request to extradite him for questioning.

Britain's High Court will hear the Swedish appeal, but it wasn't clear when.

"They clearly will not spare any expense to keep Mr. Assange in jail," his lawyer Mark Stephens told journalists outside the entrance to the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court in London. "This is really turning into a show trial."

Lawyer Gemma Lindfield, acting for Sweden, had asked the court to deny Assange bail, arguing yesterday that the allegations against him were serious, that he has only weak ties to Britain and he has "the means and ability to abscond."

She also rejected attempts to link Assange's case with the work of WikiLeaks — which last month deeply angered U.S. officials by beginning to publish its trove of 250,000 secret U.S. diplomatic cables.

"This is not a case about WikiLeaks, rather a case about alleged serious offences against two women," Lindfield told the court yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Powerful friends

- Celebrity supporters in the court — including socialite Jemima Khan and actress Bianca Jagger — and hundreds of pro-WikiLeaks protesters outside the building cheered at District Judge Howard Riddle's decision to grant Assange bail.
- Several wealthy supporters — including filmmaker Michael Moore — have put up a total of $380,000 US as a guarantee for Assange, his lawyers said.

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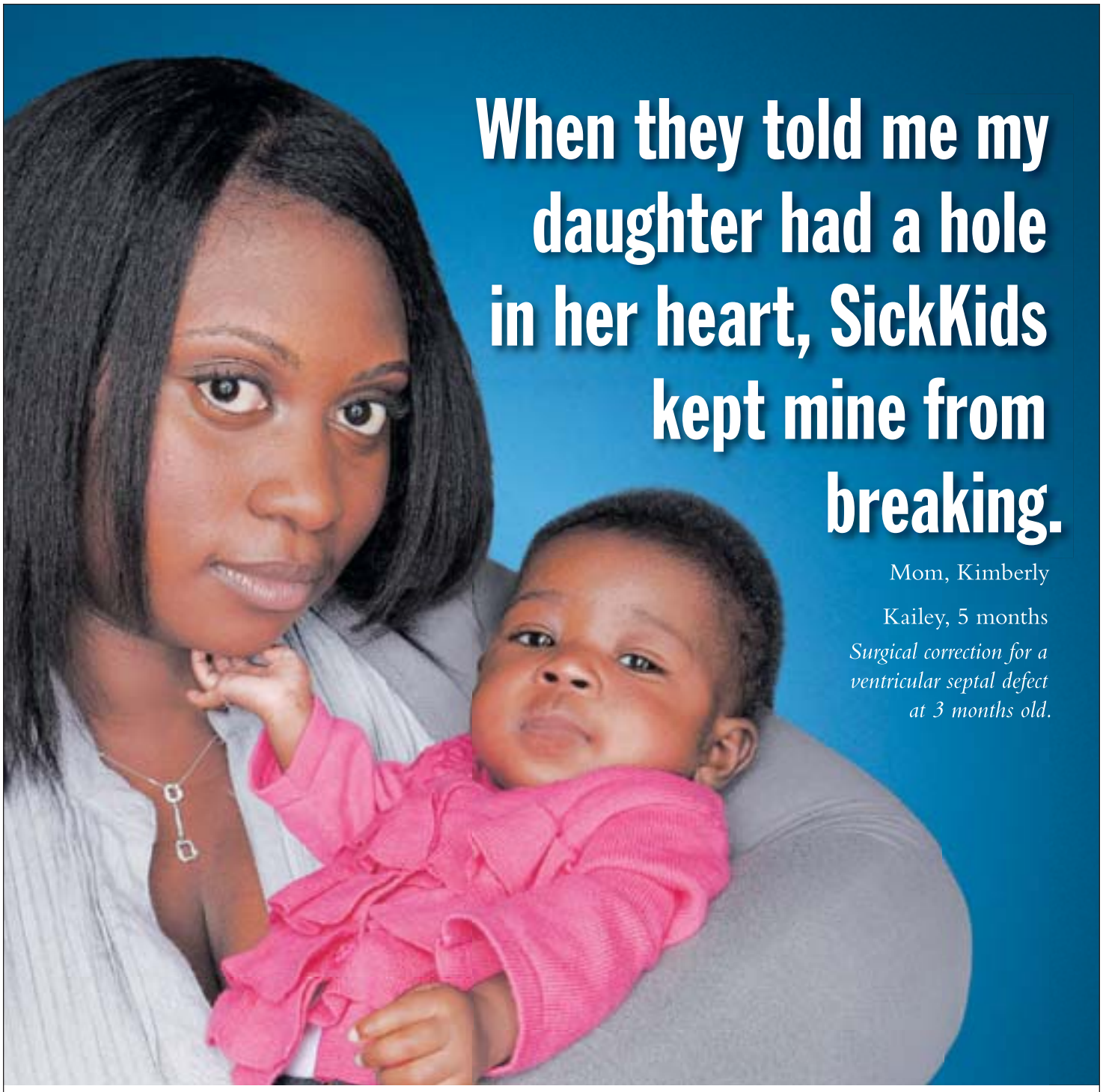

When they told me my daughter had a hole in her heart, SickKids kept mine from breaking.

Mom, Kimberly

Kailey, 5 months

Surgical correction for a ventricular septal defect at 3 months old.

Shock. Confusion. Despair.
Kimberly felt them all when they told her what was wrong with her baby.
Thankfully the doctors and nurses at SickKids explained what needed to be done and helped her through it.
By the time Kailey underwent surgery to close the hole in her heart, Kimberly knew her daughter was in good hands.
SickKids researchers are trying to find ways of preventing or treating heart conditions even before birth.
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We have to find more ways to improve the health of children.

Research is key.
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All motorists rescued: Minister

GLENN OGILVIE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tino Villarreal, of Flint, Mich., shields himself from the cold yesterday as he walks away from a line of stranded trucks on London Line, east of Sarnia.

Dozens of travellers used the Tim Hortons near Sarnia as a safe haven

Emergency officials believe everyone stranded on a snow-swept highway in southwestern Ontario has been rescued, the province's community safety minister said yesterday.

Some 300 people were thought to be stranded on Highway 402 when drifting snow and zero visibility left hundreds with no option Monday but to hunker down in their vehicles. It was the only shelter available to guard against the bone-chilling night as they awaited help overnight.

By late yesterday afternoon, 237 people had been rescued from their vehicles.

It was unclear how many others were taken to safety by farmers and snowmobilers aiding in the effort.

One person rescued had an unspecified medical emergency, but was said to be OK. There were no reports of serious injuries or deaths.

Ontario Community Safety Minister Jim Bradley said it's believed everyone has been rescued, but police were sweeping the highway again just to be safe.

Police have said the ground rescue operation will continue around the clock.

Drifting snow and zero visibility had trapped about 300 people in their vehicles starting Monday on Highway 402 between Sarnia and County Road 22, about 30 kilometres east of the city, provincial police said.

In all, there were some 360 vehicles stuck.

Those trapped were dealing with -15 C temperatures that felt like -25 with the windchill, said Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We didn't know what to do. No one wanted to talk because it was so cold."

SUHANI BHUSHAN, 19, WHO SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE CAR WITH HER PARENTS AND SISTER

Snow smarts

The Canadian Automobile Association has some tips in its winter survival driving guide to help keep you safe on the road:

- **Plan your trip,** check the road and weather conditions before you head out.
- **Give yourself extra time** if the weather is bad.
- **Install** four matching winter tires.
- **Remove all snow** from your vehicle's hood, roof, windows and lights.
- **Slow down** and wear your seatbelt.
- **Carry a cellphone** and make sure it's fully charged.
- **Pack a winter survival kit** with extra clothing, footwear and blankets, some extra non-perishable food and a candle for warmth.
- **Keep the following in your trunk**: A collapsible shovel, windshield washer fluid, booster cables and kitty litter, which can be used for traction under your tires.
- **Keep the following in your vehicle**: Ice scraper, snow brush, flashlight and first aid kit.

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Canada laments loss of U.S. diplomat

Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan paid glowing tribute yesterday to U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke, saying the veteran diplomat's sudden death will be felt by everyone working for peace in the region.

Holbrooke died Monday after surgery to repair a torn aorta.

Ambassador William Crosbie said Holbrooke helped build trust within the war-ravaged region.

"We are all going to feel his loss," Crosbie said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman sues city over hijab arrest

A Muslim woman who was arrested after she refused to remove her headscarf in a Georgia courthouse filed a lawsuit yesterday against the city of Douglasville and the officers who arrested her, contending they violated her constitutional rights.

Scan code for more

Is the penny on the verge of extinction?

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Pennies are seen piled in Ottawa yesterday.

Senate committee recommends that government drop one-cent coin

Cursed for weighing down pockets, discarded and forgotten in jars, deserted on dresser tops and even spurned by panhandlers, the Canadian penny may be coming to the end of its 102-year run.

The Senate finance committee urged the government to rid the country of the lowly coin, damning it as useless and wasteful — the worst offences possible for an icon of commerce.

Senator Irving Gerstein said not one witness who came forward to testify to the committee praised the copper-plated coin.

"It is a piece of currency, quite frankly, that lacks currency," he said.

It currently costs 1.5 cents to make and distribute each penny, hardly a sound business strategy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Demonstrators clash with police in Rome's Piazza del Popolo Square yesterday, in protest of Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government. Meanwhile, the controversial leader won back-to-back confidence votes in parliament and thus survived one of the toughest tests of his political life.

Berlusconi retains power as protests rage

- Some experts predict Italian PM might soon resign
- About 100 people reported injured in street violence

LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Silvio Berlusconi

Silvio Berlusconi pulled off another astonishing escape from political death, scraping through two confidence votes yesterday in a dramatic parliamentary showdown. But the Italian leader's hold on power remains precarious as his razor-thin victory makes political gridlock a near certainty — and violent street protests show growing unease with his rule.

Masked protesters torched cars and trash bins, smashed shop windows and clashed with police. Clouds of white tear gas and orange flares engulfed streets, as shops full of Christmas goods hurriedly closed down.

The chaos followed speculation in recent weeks that the end of the Berlusconi era was near.

Weakened by sex scandals and a bitter breakup with his one-time closest ally, Berlusconi seemed destined to be sent packing. The split with Gianfranco Fini had eroded the prime minister's once comfortable parliamentary majority and left him vulnerable.

But Berlusconi battled back, as he has countless times when his political career seemed to be on the ropes. Yesterday's drama confirmed his status as the ultimate political survivor — but he emerges from the battle severely weakened and one top opposition lawmaker called his success a "Pyrrhic victory."

In the most dramatic of the two tests, Berlusconi survived the no-confidence motion in the lower house by just three votes. Scuffles between lawmakers forced a brief suspension in the voting session.

The slim margin means Berlusconi can no longer count on a secure parliamentary majority for passing legislation.

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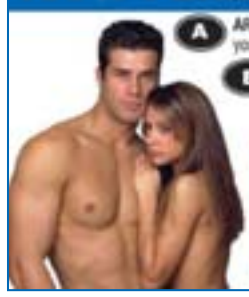

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GMC by Ally Credit. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at (%) 2.9% APR, monthly payment is $208. $38,220.80 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $10,000.80 $10,693.20, total obligation is $10,000.80 $10,693.20. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ♣Variable rate financing for 84 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS (R17)/Equinox LS FWD (R17A) participating dealers only. Example: $10,000 at 3% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $131.21. Cost of borrowing is $1,089.82, total obligation is $11,089.82. Down payment and/or trade may be required. 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Customer's GM vehicle must be registered and insured (in Canada) in their name for the previous consecutive six months. GM Owner Loyalty Bonus may be applied towards the purchase/finance/lease of an eligible new 2009/2010/2011 Model Year Chevrolet/GMC/Buick/Cadillac vehicle, delivered between July 1, 2010 – December 30, 2010, ineligible vehicles: Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Cruze, all Pontiac, Saturn, Saab, and HUMMER vehicles, and medium duty trucks. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact GM to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives, including the First to Graduate Program. See your GM dealer for details. 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PAVEL RAHMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Firefighters work to douse flames on a garment factory at Ashulia, about 25 km north of Dhaka, yesterday.

Factory fire turns deadly

- Local journalist says he saw at least 25 bodies loaded onto ambulances
- Witnesses say gate on stairwell was locked, trapping people inside

Dozens of people were killed after a blaze raced through a garment factory that supplies major multinationals such as Gap and JCPenney near Bangladesh's capital yesterday.

Many of the dead included trapped workers who jumped from the smouldering building, witnesses at the scene said.

Fire official Golam Mostafa said the fire started in a 10-storey factory owned by local business giant Ha-Meem Group in the Ashulia industrial zone, just outside Dhaka. It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze,.

Interior Minister Shahara Khatun said her ministry would probe whether it was related to recent violent protests at textile factories over wages.

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Investment needed in mental health: MPs

71 The public safety committee made 71 recommendations, including more special courts to handle the needs of people with mental-health and drug problems

A Commons committee is calling on governments to make a "serious investment" in the mental-health system to prevent the vulnerable from ending up in prison.

A public safety committee report says the federal prison service is "not able at this time" to provide adequate treatment and support to the majority of offenders with mental-health and addiction issues.

In the report tabled yesterday, the MPs said offenders who do not receive the treatment and programs they need are more likely to commit crimes after release, compromising public safety.

The committee urges additional federal money to allow the Correctional Service to fully implement its mental-health strategy.

The federal prison ombudsman said last month that Canada's packed, crumbling jails — rife with illness, addiction and violence — are endangering the rehabilitation of offenders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Excuse me. Can I get by?

▶ A New Delhi rickshaw driver shares the road with a colourful elephant yesterday.

MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Painted pachyderm

An elephant walks on a street as a rickshaw driver transports a customer in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

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U.S. teens using more pot, less alcohol: Report

Government study also shows use of ecstasy on rise among youth But binge drinking is declining

Teenagers in the United States are using more marijuana and less alcohol, according to an annual government study of students in Grades 8, 10 and 12 across the country.

Some 6.1 per cent of high-school seniors reported using marijuana this year, up from 5.2 per cent in 2009, according to the Monitoring the Future survey released by the National Institutes of Health.

Marijuana use by Grade 10 students climbed from 2.8 per cent to 3.3 per cent, and for Grade 8 students it edged up from 1.0 per cent to 1.2 per cent.

On the other hand, binge drinking is on the decline.

"These high rates of marijuana use during teen and preteen years, when the brain continues to develop, place our young people at particular risk."
NORA VOLKOW, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

While 23.2 per cent of high school seniors reported having five or more drinks in a row, that's down from 25.2 per cent a year earlier.

Other findings

- Use of ecstasy, which had declined in the early 2000s, is on the increase again.
- There was a small increase in teens injecting heroin, but only among Grade 12 students.
- Use of cocaine remained low after declining from levels in the '80s and '90s.

The binge rate for this age group peaked at 31.5 per cent in 1998.

The survey, conducted by the University of Michigan, covered 46,482 students in 396 schools.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Charest is not amused

Mail prank targets Quebec premier ◗ Fake holiday greeting letter sent in Charest's name

Quebec's much-maligned premier is fending off yet another attack — this time the handiwork of a letter-writing prankster.

A fake holiday greetings letter is circulating by regular mail and on the Internet with Premier Jean Charest's signature at the bottom.

The letter is written in impeccable French on what appears to be official letterhead.

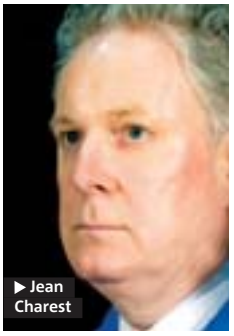
It quotes Charest as defending numerous tax hikes to maintain the standard of living for his rich friends.

It also says challenges await in 2011, but that Charest is confident he can count on the obedience and loyalty of Quebecers to get through.

The premier's office is not amused and says provincial police have been notified.

Charest has had to deal with numerous attacks on his leadership in the past year. But despite rock-bottom poll numbers and an online petition calling for him to step down, Charest says he intends to seek a fourth term as premier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Jean Charest

Airlines. Profitable year

▶ IATA chief executive Giovanni Bisignani during a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday.

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airlines did well in 2010

The International Air Transport Association says airlines will see net profits of $15.1 billion US in 2010, due to a better-than-expected economic recovery and strong growth in Asia.

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Miner to pour $1 billion into Canadian plants

- Saguenay project will improve productivity by 40%
- Kitimat project will increase smelter's capacity by 48%

Rio Tinto Alcan announced plans yesterday to spend more than $1 billion US in Canada to propel construction of two key projects in Saguenay, Que., and Kitimat, B.C.

The Montreal-based aluminum division of Rio Tinto said $758 million US will be earmarked to complete the first phase of its AP60 technology pilot plant in Quebec.

It will also spend $300 million US for further construction in preparation for the $2.5-billion US modernization of the Kitimat smelter.

$6B
The projects are among $6 billion of investments planned in Canada by Rio Tinto.

Both projects were slowed down a couple years ago because of the global recession.

"The first phase of the AP60 plant, which will become the platform for future generations of our AP series, underlines Rio Tinto Alcan's position as the world leader in aluminum smelting technologies," Rio Tinto Alcan CEO Jacynthe Cote said.

Cote said the technology is the most cost-effective, energy-efficient, and environmentally-friendly smelting technology commercially available.

"The modernization of our Kitimat smelter is truly a transformational project, in line with our strategic objective to grow via long-life, large-scale, low-cost assets. Once completed, Kitimat will be one of the lowest-cost smelters in the world," Cote added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pension. Bonanza

▶ Former Shaw Communications CEO Jim Shaw in Calgary in January.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Shaw to make do on $500K a month

Jim Shaw, who last month retired as chief executive of Shaw Communications, has been approved for a $500,000 monthly payment to his pension plan by the board of the company, according to a report. Shaw will receive $495,833 per month, or $5.95 million annually — exceeding the $5.4-million pension paid annually to his father, J.R. Shaw, the company chairman.

Winery's earnings plummet

Magnotta Winery Corp. says its net earnings fell to $654,171 in the third quarter, amid higher expenses and profit margins that were reduced by a new provincial tax in Ontario.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Israel calls on train maker

Bombardier Transportation said it received an additional order from Israel Railways for the delivery of 72 double-deck coaches.

The deal is valued at $154 million US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carrier sees good times ahead

Telus Corp. is projecting revenue of between $9.93 billion and $10.23 billion (which would represent growth of one to four per cent) across its operations in 2011, driven primarily by growth in its wireless division. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TSX dips after U.S. Fed keeps rates near zero

Base metals led decliners Energy down as oil prices slip Consumer staples, tech stocks positive

The Toronto stock market closed slightly lower and commodity prices were listless yesterday after the U.S. Federal Reserve said it was leaving interest rates unchanged and indicated they would stay that way for some time to come amid a "disappointingly slow" economic recovery.

True to expectations, the Fed left interest rates near zero and the quantitative easing program to expand the money supply unchanged. The U.S. central bank added that the economic recovery was continuing, but at a rate insufficient to bring down unemployment.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
– 15.78 (13,280.08)	+ 0.11¢ (99.35¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas 1,000 cu ft**
– 33¢ US ($88.28 US)	$4.255 (– 16.5¢)
	Gold contracts
	$1,404.30 (+ $6.30)

"The Fed did acknowledge the modest improvement in the U.S. economy," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "It would be hard not to acknowledge it, given that most of the economic numbers have surprised to the upside."

New York markets advanced as U.S. retail sales rose for a fifth consecutive month in November, as the biggest jump in department store sales in two years gave the holiday shopping season a strong start. Retail sales increased 0.8 per cent last month, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMPOSITE INDEX

Housing climbs out of hole

Six of 10 components rose and only one declined as the composite index climbed 0.3 per cent in November.

Statistics Canada reported the housing index recorded the largest turnaround, increasing two per cent after six straight declines averaging almost three per cent per month.

Both housing starts and existing home sales firmed up after sizable retreats from their highs in the spring.

The upturn in housing was reflected in a levelling off of furniture and appliance sales, after four straight declines, while spending on other durable goods continued to advance steadily.

Manufacturing demand continued to improve slowly as new orders rose 0.7 per cent.

The ratio of shipments to inventories was unchanged at 1.93 for the third straight month, as the growth of inventories has caught up to the recovery of sales. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Nissan Motor Co. president and CEO Carlos Ghosn, left, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. president Osamu Masuko shake hands at a press conference yesterday in Tokyo.

Automaker rivals team up

Mini vehicle category is popular in Japan for its money-saving potential and manoeuvrability

Nissan Motor Co. and its smaller rival Mitsubishi Motors Corp. have agreed to expand the scope of their global business collaboration, including a possible mini car joint venture for the domestic market.

Under the agreement the two Japanese automakers reached yesterday, Nissan will make a small van to be sold under the Mitsubishi brand for the Japanese market, while Mitsubishi will make an SUV sold under the Nissan brand in the Mideast.

The two companies said they are also discussing a joint venture for planning and engineering of mini vehicles for the domestic market, while also seeking to collaborate in upper-end models in Japan.

The two companies said they are also discussing a joint venture for planning and engineering of mini vehicles for the domestic market, while also seeking to collaborate in upper-end models in Japan.

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TIRED OF THE ENTIRE GIVING PROCESS

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I have a theory why charitable donations are down.

There's a new U.S. study showing that charitable donations fell 3.2 per cent in 2009, and wealthy households dried up the most: A whopping 34.9 per cent. You can hear those change purses snapping all the way across the border.

My theory is we're exhausted by the charitable donation industry, and the more money we have, the more exhausted we are.

Wherever we go, whatever we do, there's a hand sticking out in front of our faces.

Seasonal charities: Every carol concert requires you to bring a non-perishable food item.

Charitable panhandlers: Those young men and women with clipboards stationed on every street corner on Earth, cheerfully ambushing you for Greenpeace, the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the World Wildlife Fund, etc.

Call centre charity: You want how much for what?

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If you manage to avoid all those opportunities, you turn up at the checkout stand and the clerk asks if you want to add a few bucks for the World Yak Relief Project (WYRP). Hey, I'm in favour of yaks. Just not here. Just not now.

So it's no surprise that in the above-mentioned report, the main reason for the decline is that charities are asking too often and for too much money.

"OK, I admit I'm feeling guilty and sheepish and vile ..."

One altruistic impulse can wed you to a charity for life. Actually, it's easier to get a real divorce than it is to part ways with the WYRP.

If you give to yak relief, it's not long before all the other endangered or even just annoyed animals are calling, spamming, junk-mailing and stalking you for a donation. Tigers 2.0 lurk in the shadows of your in-basket or leap out of your mailbox, and they're just as eager to take a bite out of your hide.

OK, I admit I'm feeling guilty and sheepish and vile, but charities need to understand the accumulated impact of their frenetic campaigning is donor fatigue. If the frequency goes up, the amount goes down, according to Einstein.

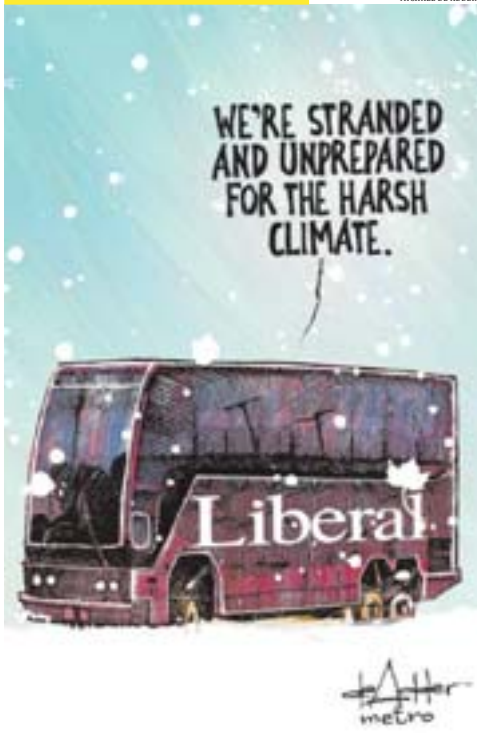
We can't go back to the beginning and start all over again, but this year, I'm thinking of suspending all other donations, finding one little kid who seems particularly needy, and handing him (or her) a pile of cash.

And if it all gets spent on bubble gum and comic books, at least the kid will be happy while it lasts. Can't say the same thing about the yaks.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Worth mentioning

Bethlehem has seen a record number of tourists this year and its thousands of hotel rooms are fully booked for Christmas week, thanks to steadily declining violence in the West Bank over the past few years.

It's a welcome bit of good news in a period that is otherwise gloomy, with a U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian peace effort appearing to have run aground.

So far this year, 1.4 million tourists have visited the traditional birthplace of Jesus and 90,000 are expected during the Christmas season, a significant increase over last year, according to Israeli government figures.

Holy Land

TARA TODRAS-WHITEHILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The town's 2,750 hotel rooms are booked solid for Christmas week and four more hotels are under construction. The expected turnout for Christmas week is up strongly from about 70,000 last year.

The Bethlehem they find may be different from what many expect: For one thing, Christians have lost their majority: More than two-thirds of the 50,000 Palestinian residents are Muslim.

Still, the town does its best to take advantage of its place in Christian history, going so far as to link the Christmas nativity story to the fact that it houses the West Bank's best maternity facility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's your favourite Christmas carol?

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Metro Minute at sport, social club

You want to get in shape, let off a bit of pressurized steam and meet new people, but the idea of going to a gym makes you feel a bit like a hamster in one of those bubbles of doom.

If this sounds like a thought that has wheeled through your mind, you may want to check out the Toronto Sport and Social Club at torontossc.com.

The club hosts a series of organized sports leagues representing everything from soccer, hockey, basketball and ultimate frisbee to dodgeball and curling. Those muscular Patti Stangers have even set up a Sports for Singles group and put on a series of non-sweat related events.

JORDANA DIVON

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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2 scene

The King's Speech leads Golden Globe contenders with seven nominations, including best drama and three acting honours ◆ Glee leads TV contenders with five nominations ◆ Ceremony will air live Jan. 16 on NBC ◆ Here's a look at the nominees

▶ Jane Lynch is nominated for best supporting actress for her role as Sue Sylvester on Glee.

▶ Colin Firth is up for a best dramatic actor prize for The King's Speech.

Who's up for the 2010 Golden Globes

BEST PICTURE, DRAMA
- Black Swan
- The Fighter
- Inception
- The King's Speech
- The Social Network

BEST PICTURE, MUSICAL/COMEDY
- Alice in Wonderland
- Burlesque
- The Kids Are All Right
- Red
- The Tourist

BEST TV SERIES, MUSICAL/COMEDY
- 30 Rock
- The Big Bang Theory
- The Big C
- Glee
- Modern Family
- Nurse Jackie

BEST TV SERIES, DRAMA
- Boardwalk Empire
- Dexter
- The Good Wife
- Mad Men
- The Walking Dead

BEST ACTOR, TV MUSICAL/COMEDY
- Alec Baldwin, 30 Rock
- Steve Carell, The Office
- Thomas Jane, Hung
- Matthew Morrison, Glee
- Jim Parsons, The Big Bang Theory

BEST ACTRESS, TV MUSICAL/COMEDY
- Toni Collette, The United States of Tara
- Edie Falco, Nurse Jackie
- Tina Fey, 30 Rock
- Laura Linney, The Big C
- Lea Michele, Glee

BEST ACTOR, TV DRAMA
- Steve Buscemi, Boardwalk Empire
- Bryan Cranston, Breaking Bad
- Michael C. Hall, Dexter
- Jon Hamm, Mad Men
- Hugh Laurie, House

BEST ACTRESS, TV DRAMA
- Julianna Margulies, The Good Wife
- Elisabeth Moss, Mad Men
- Piper Perabo, Covert Affairs
- Katey Sagal, Sons of Anarchy
- Kyra Sedgwick, The Closer

BEST ACTOR, DRAMA
- Jesse Eisenberg, The Social Network
- Colin Firth, The King's Speech
- James Franco, 127 Hours
- Ryan Gosling, Blue Valentine
- Mark Wahlberg, The Fighter

BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA
- Halle Berry, Frankie and Alice
- Nicole Kidman, Rabbit Hole
- Jennifer Lawrence, Winter's Bone
- Natalie Portman, Black Swan
- Michelle Williams, Blue Valentine

BEST ACTOR, MUSICAL/COMEDY
- Johnny Depp, Alice in Wonderland
- Johnny Depp, The Tourist
- Paul Giamatti, Barney's Version
- Jake Gyllenhaal, Love and Other Drugs
- Kevin Spacey, Casino Jack

BEST ACTRESS, MUSICAL/COMEDY
- Annette Bening, The Kids Are All Right
- Julianne Moore, The Kids Are All Right
- Anne Hathaway, Love and Other Drugs
- Angelina Jolie, The Tourist
- Emma Stone, Easy A

Scene in brief

The Social Network has racked up another slew of pre-Oscar awards, this time from the Toronto Film Critics Association, which has crowned it best picture of the year.

The drama about the creation of Facebook scored five prizes from the critics group, including best director for David Fincher, best actor for Jesse Eisenberg, above, best supporting actor for Armie Hammer, and best screenplay for Aaron Sorkin.

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It's not over until ...

There was no singing But thousands did watch Oprah film final shows at Sydney Opera House

For a few hours, Sydney swapped opera for Oprah.

Thousands of shrieking, jubilant fans flocked to the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday to watch TV talk show queen Oprah Winfrey tape two star-studded shows for her final series.

There were celebrities, giveaways and screams-a-plenty as 6,000 Oprah devotees jammed the steps of the landmark arts centre in Australia's biggest city for the filming.

The production marked the finale of her weeklong trip, accompanied by 302 U.S. audience members who took part in Oprah's Ultimate Australian Adventure. Winfrey's staffers whipped the already frenzied crowd into a tear-drenched state of hysteria before the host ascended the stage to the sounds of Men At Work's Down Under, Australia's unofficial anthem.

"HELLOOOO AUSTRALIAAAAAA!" she bellowed as the audience's roar reached a deafening pitch. "Now I understand why you call Australia 'Oz,' 'cause we truly are at the end of the yellow brick road!"

Winfrey launched her 25th and final season of The Oprah Winfrey Show in September by surprising her audience with her ultimate giveaway: an eight-day trip to Australia.

For the past week, the lucky chosen have been travelling the continent — snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, surfing at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach and exploring the rugged Outback.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GEORGE BURNS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Oprah Winfrey, left, poses with actor Russell Crowe while sailing on Sydney Harbour.

Off to Oz

When you can watch and who will be on:

- **On television** Four shows from Winfrey's Aussie adventure will screen in January and are expected to be watched by millions of people in 145 countries.
- **Guests** Her first guest was Australian actor Russell Crowe

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Scary Christmas to all, and to all a good fright

Holiday movies aren't all about wacky family gatherings or puppet snowmen Five of our favourite flicks for a creepy Christmas

With the yuletide near it's time for families to start gathering around the comforting glow of a television to watch films that revel in the mirth of the holiday season.

However, if you can't bear the thought of seeing the Grinch's heart grow three sizes for the 800th time, there is another option. Why not fill your family's heart with fear this year with a selection of horror films that add blood and guts to the Christmas season?

The following titles are guaranteed to make grandma spit up her eggnog on the big day.

▶ Gremlins: A holiday reminder to always read the instruction manual for your presents.

Black Christmas (1974)
Canadian director Bob Clark is best known for his B.B. gun classic A Christmas Story, but his first attempt to bring the holidays to the big screen was this pioneering slasher classic about a group of sorority girls bumped off over the Christmas break. Swell with national pride as you watch SCTV's Andrea Martin get impaled by an icicle.

Gremlins (1984)
Who would have thought a cute little Mogwai named Gizmo would go down as the worst Christmas gift in history by paralyzing an impossibly perfect small town with pintsized monsters. Perfect for parents trying to dissuade their kids from asking for a new pet for Christmas.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984)
There are many movies about killer Santas, but the most famous example is this controversial slasher about a deranged man dressed as Santa murdering promiscuous teens. Parents picketed this film's release in the 80s, but now you can buy it from any video store and share the trashy terror with your entire family.

Jack Frost (1997)
A possessed snowman kills people. 'Nuff said.

Sheitan (2006)
A beautifully deranged French horror flick about an incestuous hillbilly family who kidnap some rowdy young folks to perform a Satanic ritual on Christmas Eve. A heartwarming tale of family torment for you and yours.

PHIL BROWN

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Scarlett, Ryan split: Reports

Reynolds recently became the first Canadian to snag People magazine's 'sexiest man alive' title
Johansson was named GQ's 2010 'babe of the year'

Reports say that Canadian leading man Ryan Reynolds and his bombshell wife, Scarlett Johansson, have separated.

The Hollywood power couple married in September 2008 in a private ceremony at a remote British Columbia resort.

The gossip website TMZ features a short entry stating the duo are living apart and that "it's amicable."

Meanwhile, a source close to the couple tells Us Weekly that Johansson initiated the split about two weeks ago and that the couple have decided to end their marriage.

The 34-year-old Vancouver-born hunk is poised to star in one of the most buzzed about films of 2011, The Green Lantern.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Scarlett Johansson

Miley's antics worry Dr. Drew

After a video showing Miley Cyrus smoking a bong hit the Internet, Dr. Drew Pinsky is worried about the Disney star, he tells Access Hollywood.

"We know that she's going to be acting out now because her family's in trouble, so it's not unusual to see depression manifesting as various kinds of acting out behaviours," Pinsky says.

"If I had a child that was doing that or if I was advising a parent, I would say get professional help immediately." METRO

▶ Dr. Drew Pinsky

Girls, start your engines: Zac's single

High School Musical co-stars Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens have called it quits after four years together, according to Gossip Cop.

The split was "amicable" and came about once the pair acknowledged their relationship "wasn't going to go further."

When asked by Details earlier this year about being in a relationship, Efron said, "Believe me, I wrack my brain thinking, 'Why am I not out there playing the field?' One of my buddies was like, 'You have no idea what's going on right now. You're peaking on Ecstasy and you're watching TV.' But it's not in my heart." METRO

Pitt's kids rule the set

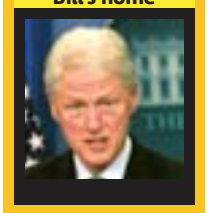
Keith Middlebrook, who co-stars with Brad Pitt in the upcoming Moneyball, says it was clear who was in charge of the set on their movie: Pitt's six kids, who often came to the set to visit their dad.

"There were toys and there were kids everywhere," Middlebrook tells Us Weekly. "

METRO

3 life

Bill's home



The home in Hope where Bill Clinton spent the first four years of his life will officially be a national historic site as of Jan. 2.

Organizers worked for years to earn the status for the Clinton First Home Museum on Hervey Street. More than 80,000 visitors from 159 countries have toured the two-storey, wood-frame home since it opened as a museum in 1997.

The museum won approval last year to become part of the National Park Service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

History of Montreal's Ste-Catherine Street on display in museum exhibit

Christmastime in the United States

Heading south for the holidays? If so, there are plenty of great places to visit to get you in the holiday spirit, from lighting festivals to Cinderella's Castle

FLICKER: MESHMAR2

Walt Disney World Orlando, Florida

At Walt Disney World in Orlando, it's Christmas through Jan. 3. Cinderella's Castle is lit up with 200,000 white lights and Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, a ticketed event certain evenings through Dec. 19, features twice-nightly Christmas parades plus live shows, carollers and more.

Other holiday happenings include a "Holidays Around the World" showcase at Epcot through Dec. 30, where storytellers share their heritage. Epcot also hosts a daily gospel performance through Dec. 26, and the Candlelight Processional featuring a choir, orchestra and a celebrity narrator retelling the Christmas story, through Dec. 30.

HANDOUT

Mission Inn Hotel & Spa Riverside, California

The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, at 3649 Mission Inn Ave., is hosting its annual festival of lights through Jan. 2.

Visitors will find a dazzling 3.5 million lights, a tree, carollers, and animatronic elves, angels and other characters in 17th-century costumes. The display is free and open to the public; the hotel also has holiday overnight packages starting at $199.

The festival spills out into the city of Riverside with lights and decorations all over town as well as an outdoor skating rink in the main street pedestrian mall near the historic hotel.

For more details visit missioninn.com.

HANDOUT

Universal Studios Hollywood, California

At Universal Studios, cast members from Glee and other celebrities will read Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas and take part in nightly lightings of a Grinchmas tree, beginning Dec. 11 and 12 and continuing daily Dec. 18 through Jan. 2.

The celebration includes a field of snow where families can build snowmen, as well as visits to the set where the Grinch movie was filmed aboard Universal's Studio Tour, and photo ops with the Grinch and his dog, Max. Tickets, packages and hotel deals at universalstudioshollywood.com or universalorlando.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biltmore House Asheville, North Carolina

In North Carolina, the historic Biltmore House is celebrating Christmas through Jan. 2 with 150,000 lights, carollers, holiday cooking and decorating demonstrations, wine-tastings and a lit-up 17-metre Norway spruce on the front lawn.

Biltmore's original owner, George Vanderbilt, first opened the home to friends and family on Christmas Eve 1895 for what became an annual Christmas Party. Biltmore recalls the era with Candlelight Christmas Evenings featuring performances by ballroom dancers in vintage costumes and choirs. Details at biltmore.com.

HANDOUT

Galt House Hotel Louisville, Kentucky

A brand-new attraction called KaLightoscope opened this season in Louisville, Ky., at the Galt House Hotel on 140 N. Fourth St.

The walk-through pavilion of lighted holiday sculptures is divided into 12 holiday-themed sections including "Toyland," the "Christmas Tree Maze," "The Lighted Forest," and "The Nativity" among others.

The attraction is open through Jan. 3; tickets are from $14.95 to $17.95. Details at KaLightoscope.com. Other holiday offerings at the hotel include a Christmas dinner show and events with Santa in a life-size gingerbread village.

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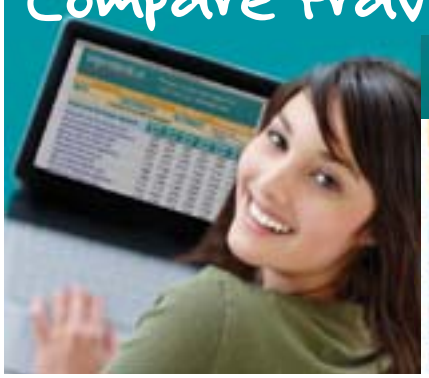

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▶ An interior view of Toles School. Toles was a one-room rural schoolhouse serving a mainly black local population. The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Que., received a donation of two centuries of "classroom treasures."

Museum of Civilization gives a look at schools

School supplies just aren't what they used to be.

Generations ago, the stuff found in Canadian classrooms typically had a "Made in Canada" label, says John Willis, curator of economic history at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

"Today, you go buy school supplies and you're going to find 'Made in China' all over the place."

The museum in Gatineau, Que., announced last week that it received a donation of two centuries worth of "classroom treasures" from the Ottawa Catholic School Board, a collection that Willis says is of "national importance" both for its rarity and scope.

The materials, which had been kept by the board in a museum of its own, include 1,800 books and hundreds of artifacts ranging from 19th-century readers and desks (the old "Preston desks" that accommodated two students each) to late-20th-century lunch boxes.

There are also maps, globes, school uniforms, provincial exams, slates and "all sorts of pencils and painting kits," says Willis.

Aside from being Canadian made, many of the items reveal bygone attitudes toward children.

The readers, for example, portray boys and girls in "very stereotypical" fashion, Willis says. "It's the whole business of the active and aggressive being the male, and the more passive or reflective or romantic being the female."

The stereotypes don't stop there.

"If we look at how the First Nations are depicted in the old history books – oh my goodness, we don't do that anymore. … It doesn't matter where you are in Canada, they're all wearing feathers."

Willis says he was also struck by the preponderance of British content in the older history books.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

History of Canada's education

The Museum of Civilization says the collection will provide information on teaching methods, school subjects and classroom etiquette to curators studying Canada's 350-year history of education. Some of the items include inkwells, a blackboard and a map.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Revelstoke raises the bar

JOURNEY WOMAN

EVELYN HANNON
JOURNEYWOMAN.COM

Most of us have heard horror stories about inadequately insured travellers who go off on holiday feeling perfectly well and then an unfortunate accident puts them in hospital.

Journeywoman asked travellin' women Marie Blair and Bev Peterson (managers at Liberty Health) to teach us about emergency health coverage. Here are a few tips:

1 Find out if your coverage extends to emergency medical services outside the country, what that coverage entails and whether that coverage is adequate.

2 Understand, that whether you are out of the country for two hours or two months, accidents are never planned and ill health can come on very suddenly.

3 Allow the same time and consideration for picking your policy as you would to deciding on a destination, or shopping for your airline ticket.

4 Think carefully about the kind of coverage you need. Are you pregnant? Is this a skiing holiday? Are you travelling with children? Are you a diabetic?

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THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
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Whistler may get all the glory in the wake of the Winter Olympics, but there's a new kid in town when it comes to world class skiing and boarding in British Columbia.

About 600 kilometres southeast of Vancouver, lies unassuming little Revelstoke, and the all new Revelstoke Mountain resort on Mount Mackenzie. Here you'll find some seriously rad skiing and boarding.

Since opening just three years ago in late 2007,

▶ Revelstoke, B.C.

Revelstoke continues to attract more and more hardcore adventurers with the highest lift-serviced vertical in North America, and it's the only resort in the world to offer gondola, cat-skiing, and heli-skiing together in one place.

At its peak, the mountain receives an average of 1,200 centimetres of snow a year, which is 20 per cent more than Whistler. The price tag to create all this fun is estimated at about a billion dollars, but when the resort is finished over the next decade, it's expected to be more than 10,000 acres, making it the biggest in North America.

After a hard day on the slopes, it's always great to unwind in nearby charming downtown Revelstoke. Now, this little town doesn't quite have that trendy upscale Alpine Village feel of Whistler, but the drinks are cold and the people are friendly.

I found myself trying my very first "ski-shooter" at Grizzly's bar downtown. This is where a bunch of like-minded patrons drink simultaneous shots from shot glasses mounted to a snowboard. How cool is that?

Revelstoke Mountain may not be on every skier's radar just yet, but with future plans to build as many as 25 lifts, it just might be the next Whistler!

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Los Angeles Travel Jan 8 - Jan 18/ac	$224 + taxes & fees $121
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Auckland Travel Mar 15 - Apr 5/fj	$1189 + taxes & fees $398

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Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights $225
Circus Circus + taxes & fees $247
INCLUDES accom on the Las Vegas Strip.
Departs Feb 6/swg/wg. UPGRADE to the 4-star Luxor for $20 per night.

San Francisco Valentine's Special Air + 3 Nights $459
Hotel Vertigo + taxes & fees $469
INCLUDES accom close to Union Square.
Departs Feb 12/ggv/dl.

Miami Air + 3 Nights $499
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INCLUDES resort accom in Miami Beach.
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FLICKR: A TEA BUT NO E

▶ The Revelstoke Mountain Resort in southeastern British Columbia is expected to be more than 10,000 acres when completed, making it the biggest ski resort in North America.

REVELSTOKE TOURS

What to do when you need a break from skiing

Here are some other cool things to do in Revelstoke.

Take a Snowmobile Tour of Boulder Mountain:
You don't have to be experienced to join a ski-doo trail ride up the mountain. Explore the alpine terrain and check out wildlife up close from winter right through May.

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Las Vegas gets

U.S. recession has hurt sin city, but new hotel Cosmopolitan hopes things will be turning around

The last major Las Vegas resort approved before the Great Recession will have to lure thousands of gamblers from established neighbours to survive after it opens today.

The $3.9-billion US Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, built by a German investment bank after its original developer defaulted, may have the hippest-ever TV commercials: Over a garage-rock soundtrack with a jazzy interlude, guests with crafty smiles stray across a landscape of shiny dance floors, soothing guest rooms and tables laden with food and drink.

But the 2,995-room Cosmopolitan is entering a market that's struggling. And analysts say that just to cover its debt, it will need to do better than even the top-performing Bellagio, its neighbour to the north with 3,933 rooms and the same amount of casino space as Cosmopolitan.

"If you take a look at everything that's opened in recent years, these properties have all struggled out of the gate," said Bill Lerner, an analyst with Union Gaming Group. "I'm not sure why this will be different."

Tourism to Las Vegas has increased from the woeful days of 2008 and 2009. And Lerner says the Cosmopolitan will get significant help from being owned by Deutsche Bank, which gave the project far lower interest rates and better terms than usual for commercial loans.

The Cosmopolitan's inside are designed to make people gawk. Video-screen columns cycling moving art greet visitors in the lobby. Across the resort, guests can sip cocktails inside a three-storey chandelier. And its 13 restaurants (including an unmarked pizza joint) will offer world-class cuisine to please any New York food-

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▶ The Cosmopolitan, the newest resort in Las Vegas, cost $3.9 billion US to build.

ISAAC BREKKEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The rooms at the Cosmopolitan are better than its competition.

ISAAC BREKKEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The gambling space at the Cosmopolitan takes up almost two football fields.

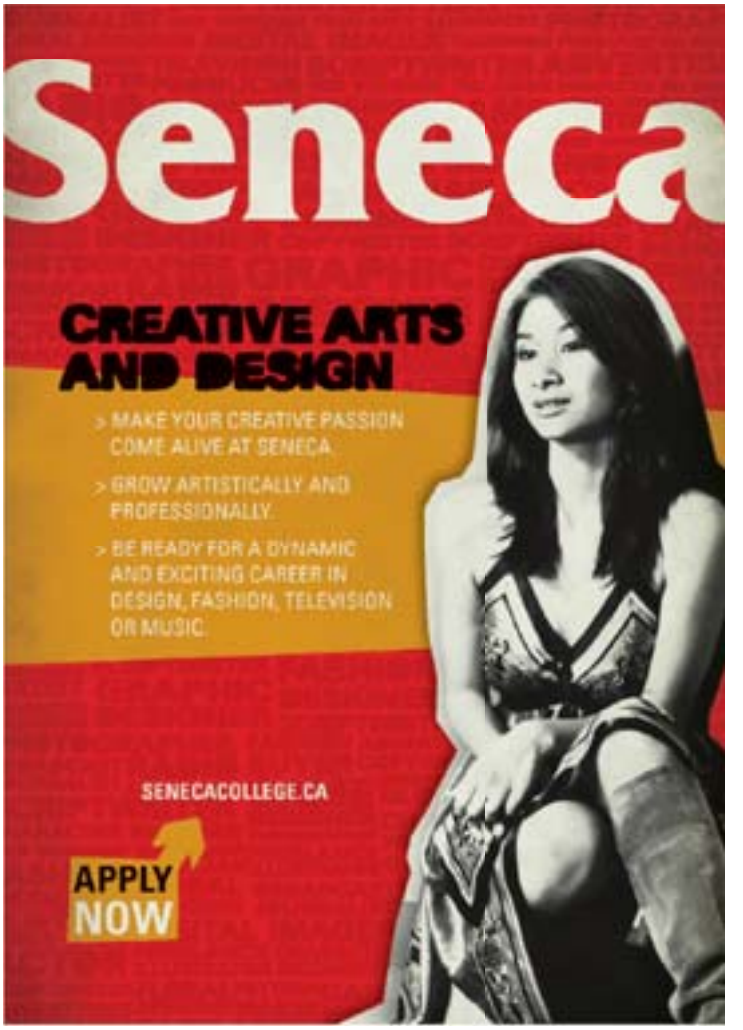
ISAAC BREKKEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Cosmopolitan has 2,995 rooms.

ie. But the Cosmopolitan's biggest trump on the competition might be its rooms, most of which offer spacious terraces with incomparable views of Las Vegas. Most were planned as condominiums — big and with kitchenettes.

The resort has enough gambling space to fill almost two football fields, with some spots offering slot-side bottle service. It'll have just a handful of baccarat tables to start, even though the generally high-stakes game has held its popularity through the recession; Unwin said the Cosmopolitan's gambling business will adapt to its customers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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News worth sharing.

St. Lucia is one hot tourist destination

The Caribbean island nation has the world's only drive-in volcano
Water and tar boil hotter than 200 degrees Sulphur smell can be trying

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

The Caribbean is lousy with tall palms, turquoise water and gorgeous beaches, but the island nation of St. Lucia offers something a bit unique.

For starters, you can actually jump in the old rental car and motor to the world's only drive-in volcano. Located near the resort town of Soufriere, the famous Sulphur Springs are a site to behold, and a dangerous site at that. Water and tar can boil hotter than 200 degrees and the rising steam is even hotter.

In fact, I was slightly troubled to learn scientists expect this dormant volcano to erupt in the next 100 years, possibly wiping out most of St. Lucia. Here's hoping it doesn't happen during my trip.

Amazingly, just a few hundred yards downstream from these hellish burning pits, you'll find tourists leisurely taking mud baths and frolicking in the springs. The water is still hot, but 45 degrees Celsius doesn't tend to prompt blood curdling screams.

Not far away, is another fascinating volcanic site, that is, if you can stand the smell. The famous Piton Mountains are the national symbol of St. Lucia, and it's hard to believe such a beautiful serene venue, can smell so truly vile. While standing right in the middle of this still active volcano, I found myself choking on the overpowering smell of very rotten eggs caused by the sulphur. Still, it's worth plugging your nose and enjoying the gorgeous view of the peaks of Piton Bay and the bubbling mud pools.

St. Lucia's local beer is also called Piton named after the mountains, so after a hard day at the peaks I paid tribute by downing a cold one … or three.

▶ St. Lucia has everything you would want from a Caribbean destination, plus a little more.

Fun in St. Lucia

Other Cool Things to Do in St. Lucia:

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Slow & steady for a quick meal

Spare 15 minutes a few hours before you serve dinner to create this effortless pomegranate-rosemary brisket

Sometimes, low and slow is the best way to deal with a dinner short on time.

Even if dinner takes several hours to cook, but you don't need to do anything to the food during that time, it might as well be a 20-minute meal.

That was the inspiration for this bold, rich roasted brisket with red wine jus.

You start by bashing together fresh rosemary, garlic, salt and black peppercorns. The blend is rubbed over a brisket.

The meat is surrounded by mushroom caps, a quartered onion and a quartered pomegranate. Pop it in the oven and walk away.

When the brisket is done, you set it onto a plate to rest, spoon the mushrooms around it, then strain the liquid in the pot. And that's about it. The pomegranate breaks down during cooking, lending a tart-sweet flavour that complements the salty flavour of the meat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This bold and rich roasted brisket is made with mushrooms, onions and pomegranate.

Pomegranate-Rosemary Brisket with Red Wine Jus

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 150 C (300 F). Drizzle oil over bottom of a Dutch oven.
2. Using a mortar and peselte, spice grinder or small food prosessor, grind together salt, peppercorns, rosemary and garlic until they form a coarse paste.
3. Rub rosemary-garlic blend over bisket, then place meat in Dutch oven. Scatter mushrooms, onion and pomegrnate around meat, then pour wine down side. Cover pot and roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until meat is fork tender.
4. Transfer brisket from pot to a serving platter. Use a slotted spoon to transfer mushrooms to platter. Cover with foil and set aside.
5. Pour liquid in pot through a mesh strainer into a bowl. Discard solids. Return strained liquid to pot and set over medium-high. Simmer until reduced and thickened, about 10 minutes. Serve alongside meat and mushrooms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) kosher salt
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) whole peppercorns
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary, leaves only
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 kg (2 1/4 lbs) brisket, trimmed of fat
- 250 g (8 oz) baby portobelloe mushrooms
- 1 medium yellow onion, quartered
- 1 pomegranate, quartered
- 250 ml (1 cup) red wine

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Do you slip back into old habits post-New Year's? Don't abandon your resolutions Forge ahead with these four simple rules for setting a goal

ADRIANA RIVERA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

According to Mark Murphy, author of Hard Goals: The Secrets to Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be, "85 per cent of New Year's resolutions are abandoned within 90 days of New Year's."

For 2011, Murphy shows you how to stick with your goals by using some basic rules. He breaks them down into four subgroups: heartfelt, animated, required and difficult.

"A goal has to be heartfelt — you have to have some emotional connection to it. It has to be animated, in that we have to visualize it in our minds. Required means we need to feel some kind of urgency for it. And it has to be difficult, as we perform best when our brains are most awake," he explains.

These four categories add up to the most important goal, what Murphy describes as a "hard goal." These goals are highly achievable and keep a goal-setter motivated.

"The interesting thing is that too often people view goal-setting as a one-shot endeavor," Murphy says. "You set the goal, you forget about it and you expect it to take care of itself. How we feel when we initially start a goal; that motivation can wane."

"Most people who are great achievers, once they hit a goal, they're always looking for a new goal."
AUTHOR MARK MURPHY

Murphy also says that setting goals effectively can create happiness, or at least a more positive point of view. "Most people who are great achievers, once they hit a goal, they're always looking for a new goal," he says.

"We found that people who tend to be the happiest are people who keep goals coming."

His advice: "Lay down the foundation by finding a goal that you want to do and find an emotional connection to that goal. You have to find some reason that you care about it."

▶ Mark Murphy shares the key to resolution success in his book Hard Goals.

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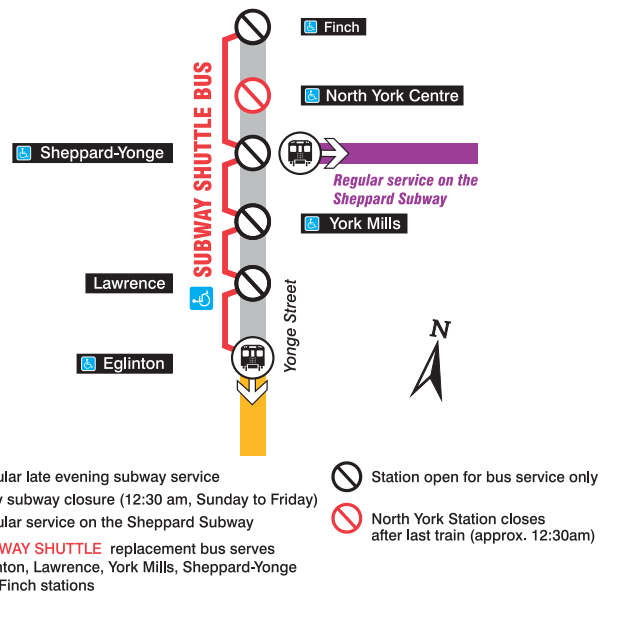
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To group or to stream students

Current evidence shows that grouping students based on their academic abilities may be detrimental

"Grouping" by ability, or "tracking" or "streaming" means that students are placed into groups defined by their ability levels.

Students may be grouped by ability either for a subject (for example for mathematics or reading) or for all or almost all their instruction.

Students' assignment to an ability group may be temporary, changing during the year, or relatively permanent.

Advocates of grouping by ability claim that it can raise achievement standards, since teachers can target their instruction and use resources more effectively.

However, research has shown that grouping by ability can have adverse effects on students' attitudes toward schooling and their self-esteem.

Studies on ability grouping show inequitable outcomes and social consequences.

- It is very difficult to distinguish "ability" from "prior achievement."
- Use of grouping by ability is associated with worse overall student performance.
- Students placed in higher ability groups may perform better but students placed in lower ability groups typically perform worse than in mixed ability groups.
- There is a tendency for lower teacher expectation and lower quality of instruction in lower ability groups.
- For students assigned to low-ability groups, there are negative effects on their self-esteem, motivation and attitudes toward schooling.

Research suggests that students in non-grouped settings, especially for those with lower achievement, have more healthy and positive attitudes toward school than students tend to have in grouped settings.

Researchers advocate using mixed grouping as well as reducing ability grouping in schools, but more important is to focus much attention on improving instruction and curriculum for students of all achievement levels.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA) AND THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE/UT)

More details

There are numerous online resources available regarding grouping by ability as well as research references that inform this issue

For more information go to cea-ace.ca.

▶ Students placed in mixed ability groups tend to see greater academic success than students placed in low ability groups.

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Fighting for family time a tricky affair

Who wins in the never ending tug-of-war between work obligations and unique family circumstances?

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN
IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.
DAN@TORONTOEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM

At the end of the day someone has to pick up the kids — plain and simple. But what happens if your employer changes a term or condition of your employment that prevents you from doing so? It may be irritating, but is it discrimination? Human rights legislation suggests it might be. In almost every province, employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of "family status," which is generally defined as being a parent and child relationship. However, this is a developing area of law, and balancing an employer's right to govern the workplace with an employee's parental obligations is an ongoing power struggle.

Employers expect employees to show up regularly and perform the duties and responsibilities of their position. Further, employers can set hours of work and schedule shifts. Family status issues arise when the employer changes a condition of employment that causes serious interference with an employee's parental obligations.

That said, not all workplace changes will result in discrimination and the need for accommodation. The "test" is a change that causes interference with a parental obligation outside the scope of ordinary child-care requirements. If an employee requests accommodation based on family status, employers should ask what special circumstances exist and provide no more than the minimum amount of time off.

An employee who requests accommodation must know that that accommodation will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. These extraordinary circumstances do not include such things as attending a child's hockey game.

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Quoted

"It looks like there's a chance that we're going to be able to get him back at some point. Hopefully, this week."
VIKINGS INTERIM COACH LESLIE FRAZIER, ON WHETHER BRETT FAVRE WILL PLAY AGAIN.

"Brett, he's an unusual healer. He comes back a lot sooner than others from most injuries. We'll just have to wait and see."
FRAZIER

Scan code for news

Bobcats reserves get best of Raps

97	91
BOBCATS	RAPTORS

Nazr Mohammed had 18 points and eight rebounds, Tyrus Thomas hit the go-ahead jumper with just more than a minute left, and the Charlotte Bobcats overcame Stephen Jackson's poor night to beat the Toronto Raptors 97-91 last night.

With Jackson held to seven points before fouling out, reserves played key roles as the Bobcats snapped a two-game skid. Thomas, in his return after missing two games with a sore calf, scored 14 points and his mid-range jumper with 1:20 left put Charlotte ahead to stay.

Little-used Matt Carroll, playing for Jackson, then hit a cutting Boris Diaw for a half-hook on Charlotte's next possession to make it 93-89.

The Raptors wilted from there in their fifth loss in six games despite 17 points and nine assists from Jerryd Bayless.

In other NBA action, Kobe Bryant took over the game by scoring 16 of his 24 points in the third quarter, and Andrew Bynum added seven points in his season debut as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the undermanned Washington Wizards 103-89.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cliff Lee is returning to the Phillies despite receiving a bigger offer from the Yankees.

Millions left on the table

New York Yankees offered $30M more, but Cliff Lee preferred Phillies

At some point, it seems, Cliff Lee figured it wasn't about the money anymore. Baseball's hottest free agent could have had $150 million US and a spot on the biggest stage in the game with its most successful team — the New York Yankees, winners of 27 World Series.

Instead, the star pitcher got up from the table and left $30 million behind.

He picked the Philadelphia Phillies, winners of just two titles in more than a century — and a team that brusquely traded him after he led them into the World Series in 2009.

$11M

Cliff Lee's salary next season. His pay escalates to $21.5 million in 2012 and $25 million in each of the following three seasons.

The Phillies will give him $120 million guaranteed over the next five seasons, according to several people in baseball familiar with the deal.

Why does a guy leave all that money behind?

Apparently, because he had all he needed — something that agents and others in the financial end of baseball say happens more than you might expect. Lee and his family liked Philadelphia. Plus, his wife had complained that New York fans were rude and spat at the Rangers' wives during the American League championship series this fall when Lee was pitching for Texas, his other big suitor this off-season.

Lee's move was the buzz of baseball yesterday. He is expected to take a physical and seal the deal today.

"That's the most I've ever seen a player walk away from," former Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "It's unprecedented."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Votto honoured as Canada's top athlete

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Joey Votto

Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto has won the 2010 Lou Marsh Award.

The honour — decided by a panel of sports editors, reporters and broadcasters — is given annually to Canada's outstanding athlete by the Toronto Star.

Votto became just the third Canadian to win one of baseball's most valuable player awards.

The 27-year-old native of Etobicoke was a near unanimous choice for the National League award. He hit .324 with 37 home runs, 113 RBIs and 16 stolen bases last season.

Sidney Crosby won the Lou Marsh Award last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Overbay joins the Pirates

MLB. Free-agent first baseman Lyle Overbay reached a one-year deal with the Pittsburgh Pirates yesterday, returning to the NL after five seasons with Toronto.

Overbay, 34, hit 20 home runs and 37 doubles last year with the Blue Jays. He batted .243 with 67 RBIs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backup plan in Minnesota

NFL. The Minnesota Vikings said yesterday they're getting ready to use Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium as a backup if the torn Metrodome roof can't be repaired before Monday night's game with Chicago.

Workers began the daunting task of removing snow from the outdoor stadium, which was buried after a weekend snowstorm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opinion

ADAM PROTEAU
THE HOCKEY NEWS

BURKE NEEDS TO GIVE UP ON QUICK FIX

There are many things to admire about Maple Leafs GM Brian Burke. If he is on your side, you'll never have a more passionate advocate; he is fantastically loyal to his friends; and he clearly has a better-than-average grasp of the English language.

But perhaps Burke's most admirable attribute is his willingness to change his mind on certain matters. For instance, he once was a vocal critic of shootouts — "it would be the same thing as if the National Football League decided its games by having guys throw footballs through a tire," he said when he was Vancouver's GM — but now has come to accept them as part of the NHL's larger entertainment package.

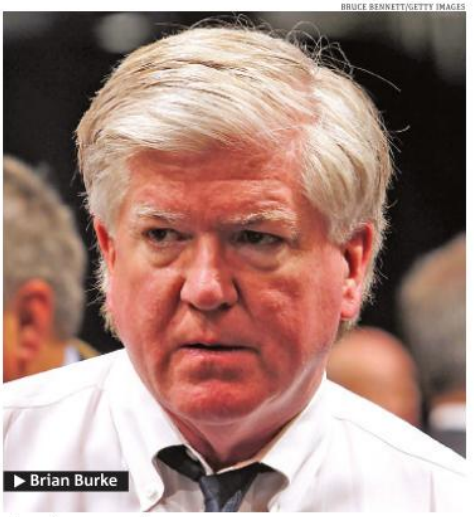
That's why I have faith Burke will realize the error of his ways since he's been in Toronto — in particular, his strategy of making the Leafs into a Stanley Cup contender without depending on high draft picks and a longer-term rebuild.

When he first joined the Leafs — and as late as last summer — Burke told anyone and everyone he wasn't interested in finishing at the bottom of the standings to pick up high-end young players who may or may not turn out to be worth building a team around. That's why the Phil Kessel and Dion Phaneuf transactions were made, and why, barring a trade, Toronto won't have a first-round draft pick until 2012.

But now, with the Buds still at the bottom of the standings, Burke must see that his initial philosophy won't work. Too many Leafs fans have been traumatized by too many years of disappointment for them to be patient with anyone (including Nazem Kadri, Jonas Gustavsson and Luke Schenn) for very long.

That would change if management came out today and told Torontonians, "You know what? We screwed up, and we're changing course."

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Brian Burke

Suddenly, each loss wouldn't be nearly so painful. Fans could look at any number of young teams built through the draft (like the Edmonton Oilers) and have something to base real hope on.

In this playoff-deprived town, bad gambles and fast fixes just don't cut it anymore.

Leafs start trip with a W

4	1
LEAFS	OILERS

Kris Versteeg had a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs kicked off their Western Canada road trip with a 4-1 victory over the Edmonton Oilers last night.

Dion Phaneuf, Mikhail Grabovski and Phil Kessel also scored for the Leafs (12-14-4) who have won two in a row and four of their last six and moved into a three-way tie for 10th in the Eastern Conference with Buffalo and Carolina.

Jordan Eberle scored in response for the Oilers (11-14-5) who have lost two in a row and three of four to remain in last place in the West.

The Oilers came out flying but it was the Maple Leafs who struck first six minutes in as Phaneuf beat Oilers starter Nikolai Khabibulin with a point blast for his first goal of the season in his first game in his hometown of Edmonton as a Maple Leaf since being traded to Toronto by the Calgary Flames.

Edmonton tied the game up six minutes later as Ryan Whitney did a good job keeping a puck in at the point and sent it to Gagner who slid a pass under Leafs defenceman Francois Beauchemin to Eberle to give the rookie forward his seventh goal of the season

Toronto had a good chance to regain the lead with under a minute left as Versteeg had an open net to shoot for in a scramble but Khabibulin dove across to make a pad save. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Balance is juniors' goal

After relying on star players like John Tavares and Taylor Hall for goals in the past, Canada hopes to have a more balanced attack at this year's world junior hockey championship.

The lack of marquee names has been a topic since 40 players arrived for the team selection camp Saturday.

But forward Jaden Schwartz is confident there's enough talent to get the goals they will need when the tournament opens Dec. 26 in Buffalo.

"Every single guy here has got skill and everyone can score," the Colorado College left-winger from Emerald Park, Sask., said yesterday. "We might not have any huge superstars.

"That's the word going around town, although I'm sure down the road there are going to be superstars from this team in the NHL. But I think it's a team that will score by committee. Four lines of scoring and four lines of grit. Everyone can do it all on this team."

Team management was confident enough that among the first nine cuts were two of the top-10 scorers from the Western Hockey League, Linden Veh and Brenden Gallagher, as well as Ontario Hockey League scoring star Garrett Wilson.

Coach Dave Cameron has said from the start he expects it to be a blue collar team that will need to work hard in all three zones of the ice and grind out wins.

But the potential to score is there, though it may be less evident than in past years which players will grab the spotlight in Buffalo.

Another nine cuts are to be announced early today before the final 22-man roster meets at the MasterCard Centre for a team picture.

Later today, the final roster will begin the team building process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	32	20	7	2	3	108	78	45	11-5-0-2	9-2-2-1	6-1-0-3	W3
d-Washington	32	18	11	1	2	98	92	39	12-4-0-2	6-7-1-0	4-5-0-1	L6
d-Montreal	30	18	10	2	0	78	61	38	11-4-2-0	7-6-0-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	32	21	9	2	0	103	74	44	10-5-1-0	11-4-1-0	9-1-0-0	L1
Atlanta	31	17	11	1	2	99	91	37	9-6-0-1	8-5-1-1	8-2-0-0	W2
NY Rangers	32	18	13	1	0	96	83	37	7-8-1-0	11-5-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Boston	28	16	8	1	3	81	56	36	7-5-1-2	9-3-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Tampa Bay	30	16	10	2	2	94	106	36	7-2-1-1	9-8-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Ottawa	32	13	16	2	1	71	96	29	8-8-1-1	5-8-1-0	3-5-1-1	L1
Carolina	28	12	12	0	4	78	87	28	6-5-0-1	6-7-0-3	3-3-0-4	W1
Buffalo	30	12	14	4	0	78	84	28	6-9-1-0	6-5-3-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	12	14	2	2	69	87	28	8-6-2-1	4-8-0-1	4-5-1-0	W2
Florida	28	13	15	0	0	71	72	26	6-5-0-0	7-10-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	29	8	19	1	1	53	88	18	4-7-1-1	4-12-0-0	3-7-0-0	L5
NY Islanders	28	5	18	3	2	59	98	15	3-7-1-1	2-11-2-1	1-7-2-0	L6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	29	19	7	2	1	96	78	41	11-4-1-1	8-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	L1
d-Dallas	30	18	10	0	2	86	82	38	11-3-0-1	7-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Vancouver	28	16	8	2	2	91	74	36	9-3-1-1	7-5-1-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Nashville	29	15	8	4	2	76	70	36	7-1-3-2	8-7-1-0	6-1-1-2	W3
Colorado	30	16	10	4	0	108	95	36	8-4-1-0	8-6-3-0	4-3-3-0	W3
Anaheim	33	16	13	2	2	87	98	36	11-6-0-1	5-7-2-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Los Angeles	28	17	10	1	0	78	65	35	11-2-1-0	6-8-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
San Jose	30	15	10	4	1	90	87	35	8-4-2-1	7-6-2-0	5-4-0-1	L1
Chicago	32	16	13	2	1	101	96	35	8-8-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	L2
Phoenix	28	14	8	4	2	81	77	34	6-4-2-2	8-4-2-0	6-3-0-1	W1
Columbus	29	16	11	1	1	76	79	34	8-7-0-1	8-4-1-0	3-5-1-1	L1
St. Louis	28	14	9	2	3	72	75	33	9-2-0-2	5-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Minnesota	29	13	12	1	3	71	86	30	7-6-0-2	6-6-1-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Calgary	31	13	15	1	2	84	19	29	8-6-0-0	5-9-1-2	5-4-0-1	W1
Edmonton	30	11	14	1	4	78	105	27	5-8-1-1	6-6-1-2	6-3-0-1	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 2
Toronto 4 Edmonton 1
Monday's results
Calgary 3 Columbus 2 (OT)
Atlanta 4 Ottawa 3 (OT)
Colorado 7 Chicago 5
Dallas 3 San Jose 2 (SO)
Los Angeles 5 Detroit 0
Nashville 5 N.Y. Islanders 0
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Washington, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

LEAFS 4, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Toronto, Phaneuf 1 (Kessel, Armstrong) 5:55
2. Edmonton, Eberle 7 (Gagner, Whitney) 11:45
Penalty — Armstrong Tor (roughing) 2:01.
Second Period
3. Toronto, Grabovski 9 (MacArthur, Lebda) 8:28 (pp)
4. Toronto, Versteeg 10 (Schenn, Brent) 17:38
Penalties — Brule Edm (elbowing) 2:42, Stortini Edm (kneeing) 6:38, Orr Tor, Stortini Edm (fighting) 12:19, MacIntyre Edm (roughing) 12:29, Edmonton bench (too many men; served by Brule) 14:40.
Third Period
5. Toronto, Kessel 12 (Versteeg, Bozak) 9:47 (pp)
Penalties — Phaneuf Tor (unsportsmanlike conduct) 6:16, Paajarvi Edm (holding) 8:49, Orr Tor, MacIntyre Edm (misconduct) 11:35, Versteeg Tor (elbowing) 15:36, Toronto bench (too many men; served by Kessel) 19:30.
Shots

Toronto	12	13	9	34
Edmonton	12	3	9	24

Goal — Toronto: Giguere (W,8-6-2); Edmonton: Khabibulin (L,7-11-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 2-5; Edmonton: 0-4.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	26	27	53
Stamkos, TB	24	20	44
St. Louis, TB	11	26	37
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	20	36
Ovechkin, Wash	12	24	36
Datsyuk, Det	11	25	36
Perry, Ana	16	19	35
H.Sedin, Vcr	5	30	35
B.Richards, Dal	12	22	34
Semin, Wash	18	15	33
Backstrom, Wash	11	22	33
Byfuglien, Atl	11	21	32
Getzlaf, Ana	10	22	32
Sharp, Chi	17	14	31
P.Stastny, Col	13	18	31
Hejduk, Col	11	20	31
Duchene, Col	11	19	30
M.Richards, Pha	11	19	30
Giroux, Pha	15	14	29
Iginla, Cal	14	15	29
Heatley, SJ	13	16	29
Kopitar, LA	13	16	29
Ladd, Atl	10	19	29
Zetterberg, Det	10	19	29
Clowe, SJ	9	20	29
Roy, Buf	9	20	29
Neal, Dal	13	15	28
Toews, Chi	13	15	28
Eriksson, Dal	12	16	28
E.Staal, Car	12	16	28
Selanne, Ana	10	18	28
Dubinsky, NYR	14	13	27
P.Kane, Chi	11	16	27
J.Williams, LA	10	17	27
Havlat, Minn	7	20	27
J.Thornton, SJ	7	20	27
Letang, Pgh	5	22	27
Lucic, Bos	15	11	26
Ryan, Ana	14	12	26
Plekanec, Mtl	9	17	26
Liles, Col	5	21	26
Nash, Clb	17	8	25
Vanek, Buf	13	12	25
C.Stewart, Col	11	14	25
M.Koivu, Minn	6	19	25
Ribeiro, Dal	5	20	25

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	19	4	.826	—
d-Miami	18	8	.692	2½
d-Chicago	15	8	.652	4
New York	16	9	.640	4
Orlando	16	9	.640	4
Atlanta	16	10	.615	4½
Indiana	11	12	.478	8
Milwaukee	10	13	.435	9
Charlotte	9	15	.375	10½
Philadelphia	9	15	.375	10½
Toronto	9	16	.360	11
Detroit	8	18	.308	12½
Cleveland	7	17	.292	12½
Washington	6	17	.261	13
New Jersey	6	19	.240	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	20	3	.870	—
Dallas	19	5	.792	1½
d-L.A. Lakers	18	7	.720	3
d-Utah	18	8	.692	3½
Oklahoma City	17	8	.680	4
Denver	15	9	.625	5½
New Orleans	14	10	.583	6½
Portland	12	13	.480	9
Phoenix	11	12	.478	9
Memphis	11	14	.440	10
Houston	10	14	.417	10½
Golden State	8	16	.333	12½
Minnesota	6	18	.250	14½
Sacramento	5	17	.227	14½
L.A. Clippers	5	20	.200	16

d-division leader
Last night's results
Charlotte 97 Toronto 91
Philadelphia 82 New Jersey 77
L.A. Lakers 103 Washington 89
Detroit 103 Atlanta 80
Houston 118 Sacramento 105
Denver 111 Orlando 94
Minnesota at Golden State
Monday's results
Miami 96, New Orleans 84
Chicago 92, Indiana 73
Memphis 86, Portland 73
Milwaukee 103, Dallas 99
Utah 108, Golden State 95
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at New York, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Portland at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

BOBCATS 97, RAPTORS 91

TORONTO (91)
Weems 4-13 0-0 9, Johnson 5-9 2-4 12, Bargnani 4-14 3-5 12, Bayless 6-14 3-4 17, DeRozan 7-14 0-3 14, Davis 3-5 0-0 6, Barbosa 4-11 1-2 12, Kleiza 3-9 2-3 9, Wright 0-0 0-0 0, Dorsey 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-89 11-21 91.
CHARLOTTE (97)
Wallace 5-7 6-10 16, Diaw 4-10 1-2 9, Mohammed 8-11 2-5 18, Augustin 4-12 3-4 12, Jackson 3-8 1-2 7, Thomas 6-12 2-3 14, K.Brown 5-8 0-0 10, Livingston 2-3 2-2 6, McGuire 0-1 0-0 0, Henderson 0-1 0-0 0, Carroll 2-2 1-1 5, D.Brown 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-75 18-29 97.

Toronto	29	24	19	19	91
Charlotte	20	27	25	25	97

3-Point Goals—Toronto 8-26 (Barbosa 3-7, Bayless 2-5, Weems 1-3, Kleiza 1-4, Bargnani 1-4, DeRozan 0-3), Charlotte 1-6 (Augustin 1-2, Jackson 0-2, Diaw 0-2). Fouled Out—Jackson. Rebounds—Toronto 52 (Johnson 12), Charlotte 58 (Mohammed 8). Assists—Toronto 21 (Bayless 9), Charlotte 24 (Augustin 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 23, Charlotte 21. Technicals—Jackson. A—12,482 (19,077) at Charlotte, N.C.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
DETROIT TIGERS—Released RHP Alfredo Figaro and sold his contract to Orix (Japanese Pacific League).
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with RHP Mariano Rivera on a two-year contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms with DH/OF Hideki Matsui on a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Named Steve Watson pitching coach of Charlotte (FSL) and Neil Allen pitching coach of Durham (IL).
NATIONAL LEAGUE
CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with OF Jay Bruce on a six-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with C Dioner Navarro on a one-year contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with 1B Lyle Overbay on a one-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with C Gerald Laird on a one-year contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with OF/1B Matt Stairs on a minor league contract.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

ST. PAUL SAINTS—Traded 1B Kris Sanchez to New Jersey (Can-Am) for cash.
WICHITA WINGNUTS—Released INF Cesar Suarez.

CAN-AM LEAGUE

WORCESTER TORNADOES—Traded INF Gordon Gronkowski to Lake Erie (Frontier) for RHP JJ Pacella.

FRONTIER LEAGUE

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES—Signed LHP Justin Zinkovich.
OAKLAND COUNTY CRUISERS—Signed RHP Wayde Kitchens to a contract extension.

BASKETBALL

NBA

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Assigned F DeMarre Carroll to Dakota (NBADL).

LACROSSE

NLL

COLORADO MAMMOTH—Announced the retirement of G Curtis Palidwor.

FOOTBALL

NFL

CAROLINA PANTHERS—Placed G Travelle Wharton, DE Everette Brown and LB Jason Williams on injured reserve. Signed DT Corvey Irvin and CB R.J. Stanford from the practice squad. Signed DT Tommie Duhart to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Placed OT Vernon Carey on injured reserve. Signed WR Kevin Curtis.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed CB Chris Cook on injured reserve. Signed OT Thomas Welch from the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed DE Derrick Burgess.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed WR Deon Butler on injured reserve. Signed G Paul Fanaika from Cleveland's practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Placed DT Gerald McCoy and LB Quincy Black on injured reserve. Signed DE George Johnson and LB Tyrone McKenzie from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Released P Hunter Smith. Signed P Sam Paulescu.

CFL

EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Announced special teams coordinator and assistant head coach Noel Thorpe, receivers coach Jason Tucker and defensive backs coach Stacey Hairston will not return next season.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed senior vice president of hockey operations David McNab and coach Randy Carlyle to a contract extension through the 2011-12 season.
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Bryan Rodney from Charlotte (AHL) on an emergency basis.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Placed LW Brian Rolston on waivers. Recalled C Tim Sestito from Albany (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Returned D Dylan Reese and R Rhett Rakhshani to Bridgeport (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Assigned F Guillaume Desbiens to Manitoba (AHL).

SOCCER

MLS

DC UNITED—Signed D Ethan White.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

All Times Eastern
Saturday's games
NEW MEXICO BOWL
At Albuquerque, N.M.
Texas-El Paso (6-6) vs. Brigham Young (6-6), 2 p.m.
HUMANITARIAN BOWL
At Boise, Idaho
Northern Illinois (10-3) vs. Fresno State (8-4), 5:30 p.m.
NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Ohio (8-4) vs. Troy (7-5), 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 21
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Louisville (6-6) vs. Southern Mississippi (8-4), 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 22
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 23
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego, Calif.
San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 24
HAWAII BOWL
At Honolulu
Hawaii (10-3) vs. Tulsa (9-3), 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 26
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL
At Detroit
Toledo (8-4) vs. Florida International (6-6), 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
INDEPENDENCE BOWL
At Shreveport, La.
Georgia Tech (6-6) vs. Air Force (8-4), 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28
CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
At Orlando, Fla.
North Carolina State (8-4) vs. West Virginia (9-3), 6:30 p.m.
INSIGHT BOWL
At Tempe, Ariz.
Missouri (10-2) vs. Iowa (7-5), 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29
MILITARY BOWL
At Landover, Md.
East Carolina (6-6) vs. Maryland (8-4), 2:30 p.m.
TEXAS BOWL
At Houston
Baylor (7-5) vs. Illinois (6-6), 6 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	11	2	0	.846	415	276
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.692	273	242
Miami	7	6	0	.538	225	244
Buffalo	3	10	0	.231	256	339

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	295	331
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	318
Houston	5	8	0	.385	316	355
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	265

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	290	198
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	294	229
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	235	252
Cincinnati	2	11	0	.154	262	345

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	295	268
San Diego	7	6	0	.538	354	253
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	314	307
Denver	3	10	0	.231	269	376

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	9	4	0	.692	329	250
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	374	308
Washington	5	8	0	.385	238	310
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	321	366

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	335	243
New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	330	240
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	260	267
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	164	338

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615	306	189
Minnesota	5	8	0	.385	230	274
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	285	309

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	261	329
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	245	268
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	243	280
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	243	351

x — clinched playoff berth.

WEEK 14

Monday's results
Baltimore 34 Houston 28 (OT)
At Detroit
N.Y. Giants 21 Minnesota 3
Sunday's results
Arizona 43 Denver 13
Atlanta 31 Carolina 10
Buffalo 13 Cleveland 6
Detroit 7 Green Bay 3
Jacksonville 38 Oakland 31
Miami 10 N.Y. Jets 6
New England 36 Chicago 7
New Orleans 31 St. Louis 13
Pittsburgh 23 Cincinnati 7
San Diego 31 Kansas City 0
San Francisco 40 Seattle 21
Tampa Bay 17 Washington 16
Philadelphia 30 Dallas 27
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota (ppd., snow and stadium problems)

WEEK 15

Tomorrow's game
(All times Eastern)
San Francisco at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Kansas City at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at New England, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

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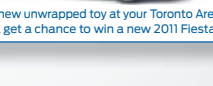

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In Partnership with Summerhill IMPACT, Car Heaven, Retire Your Ride Canada's Vehicle Recycling Program

Our advertised prices include Freight, Air Tax, and the Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee. Add dealer administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and applicable taxes, then drive away.†

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Could Lincoln's new MKZ Hybrid sedan be the most efficient luxury car in North America?

▶ The Hybrid's powertrain is lifted straight from the Ford Fusion and mixes a four-cylinder gas engine with an electric helper motor. The car can actually travel up to 75 kilometres per hour on electric power alone.

A premium hybrid that's worth the hybrid premium

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

Could the Lincoln MKZ be the poster child for delivering hybrid technology at a down-to-earth price?

Ford's premium Lincoln division touts the new MKZ Hybrid sedan as the most efficient luxury car in North America and brags up its hyper-extended fuel economy. And with a $43,750 price tag, this MKZ also happens to be one of the better buys out there.

The hybrid version of the MKZ is new to the lineup for the 2011 model year, but its drive system was first installed in the Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan (upon which the MKZ is based) for the 2010 model year. At about 1,635 kilograms — about 225 kilograms lighter than Lincoln's larger MKS sedan — the MKZ is an ideal platform to apply the hybrid magic wand.

Of course, the MKZ has to look the part of an upscale contender, and it really does. It might be based on the humble Ford Fusion, but Lincoln's designers have done a solid job sculpting a distinctive front end. A delicately creased hood and jewel-like wraparound headlights frame the brand's signature "waterfall" grille. The taillights and trunk lid have also been dressed up with the Lincoln touch.

▶ An exclusive to Ford products, Sync allows hands-free command of a variety of vehicle functions.

The icing on the cake is a cool set of nine-spoke 17-inch alloy wheels that have been fitted with special low-rolling-resistance tires.

You might expect that Lincoln would scrimp a bit on the Hybrid's interior content to maintain price parity with its V6 gas-powered stablemate.

Not at all, actually. This MKZ offers up standard genuine walnut or ash wood trim plus leather-covered seats that are power-adjustable (with memory settings) and heated and cooled in front.

There are also standard backup sensors as well as Ford's Microsoft-powered, voice-activated Sync system that controls a number of communication, entertainment and climate-control functions.

Other unique standard features include a capless fuel filler that makes topping up a one-handed affair, while a keyless entry pad is handy if you're heading to the beach or out for a jog and don't want to bring a set of keys along.

Optional is a power sunroof, voice-activated navigation system, keyless remote start, rear-view camera, blind-spot warning alert and a premium THX-brand audio package.

The Hybrid powertrain consists of a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine assisted by a 40-horsepower electric motor.

The net power output is 191 horses directed to the front wheels via a continuously variable transmission (CVT).

If the MKZ Hybrid catches on — and it's tough to see how it won't — you can expect other automakers to try and match this Lincoln's impressive fuel economy, features and price point.

MKZ Hybrid

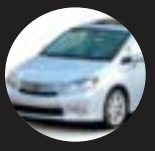
What you should know about the 2011 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid:

- **Type:** Four-door, mid-size, front-wheel-drive, entry-luxury sedan
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4, combined with an electric motor (191, net)
- **Transmission:** Continuously variable.
- **Market Position:** Lincoln is venturing into the premium hybrid arena that's currently dominated by Lexus, along with offerings from Mercedes-Benz and BMW. However the MKZ raises the bar with its fuel-sipping powertrain.
- **Points:** Outstanding fuel economy along with a reasonable base price; Not a stripped-down model; arrives with plenty of creature comforts; Roomy interior beats primary competitors; No all-wheel-drive option.
- **Safety:** Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 4.6/5.4;
- **Base price:** $43,750 (Including destination).

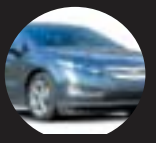
5 drive

By comparison

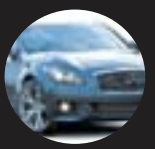
Lexus HS 250h
Base price: $41,850
Prius-based model adds more power, but is not nearly as fuel-efficient.



Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $47,000 (est.)
Electric motor combines with gas assistant to offer unlimited range.



Infiniti M
Base price: $65,000 (est.)
Upcoming 2012 model features V6 plus electric motor to make 369 hp.



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CHANGING TIMES: MAKING A CAR WITH SUNSHINE

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SUBMITTED

▶ Imagine a car that has many of its interior components made from bamboo fibre. Meet the Rinspeed BamBoo.

There's more to a vehicle than metal. And chances are if it's not metal, it's something created from petroleum — like plastic trim and polyester fibre.

But times are a changing.

Consider this quote on Ford's website, attributed to Cynthia Flanigan, a technical expert with Ford Plastics Research: "Whenever petroleum-based materials exist — in plastic, rubber, foam, film or fabric — we are looking to minimize its proportion and replace it with a sustainable material."

A "sustainable material" would either be a plant-based material and/or a recycled material.

Ford has been using soy-based foam for car seats for a few years now (starting on the 2007 Mustang). It recently expanded its soy-foam portfolio to the industry's first soy-foam headliner on the 2010 Escape.

And among Ford's recycled materials initiatives are seat fabrics made with varying degrees of post-industrial yarns, suede-like material created from plastic pop bottles (Taurus SHO and Lincoln MKZ), and sound deadening and carpet backing fashioned in part from old blue jeans (2012 Focus).

While recycling efforts are useful and necessary, the cooler science projects are happening with bio-based materials. Tractor manufacturer John Deer is already using corn-based polymers for certain body panels, and Canada's own Motive Industries says it will build its new electric car with body panels made of Alberta-grown hemp.

There are also R&D initiatives to make bio-based plastics to replace some metal parts in the engine department. To stand up to the heat, these parts would have to be made up of a bio-plastic hybrid — something plant (like castor beans) and something nylon perhaps.

But in addition to all these "green" benefits, using plants to build cars can also be a fashion statement.

Consider the recently announced BamBoo, which Rinspeed, a Swiss auto design firm, will unveil at this spring's Geneva auto show. It's called BamBoo because many interior components are made from bamboo fibre.

Rinspeed's press release says the open-top electric-powered concept car "awakens the longing for sun and summer; for lightness and easiness; and the desire to be at the beach."

And it gets better: "It is a reminiscence of the 70s, of the south of France and St. Tropez. And one would expect to find Brigitte Bardot behind the wheel with playboy Gunther Sachs at her side heading toward Tahiti beach."

Rinspeed figures that retro and greeness go good together, like wine and cheese, claiming that its old-new design creations are about channeling "the yearning to get back to the roots, paired with the absolute desire to be in harmony with creation." May be a highfalutin way of expressing the sentiment, but probably not a totally off-base one for a lot of people.

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LOWDOWN ON CURBSIDERS

The Wheel Deal
TODD BOURGON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TORONTO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION
TADA@METRONEWS.CA

Recently the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC) launched the Right Way to Buy a Vehicle campaign. The campaign emphasizes the right way to buy a vehicle: buying from a registered dealer; and the wrong way to buy a vehicle: buying from a curbsider.

Last week I was asked what the term "curbsider" means? I thought this was a good question and could provide some insight on how you can protect your hard earned money when purchasing a vehicle.

As defined on the OMVIC website, curbsiding is the term applied to individuals who sell cars outside the law.

They are not registered dealers and present themselves as imposters posing as private individuals selling their supposed private vehicle. Curbsiders often present stolen, rebuilt or odometer-tampered vehicles.

These fraud artists sell damaged or defective cars to unsuspecting consumers like you everyday. Curbsiders are not only a threat to consumers but are often the source of negativity in the retail auto industry.

In the past, many consumers thought buying a car privately could result in a better deal. Prior to the HST there was a tax benefit in purchasing privately, however the risk still remained that you could be purchasing a damaged or stolen vehicle from a curbsider if you did not take the necessary steps to protect yourself.

When buying from a curbsider you have no consumer protection should things go wrong. Sometimes deals too good to be true are just that!

One of the products many dealers are using and you as consumers can access is called a CarProof report.

I spoke to CarProof and this is what they had to say: "Consumers can rely on CarProof vehicle history reports to uncover that truth," states Marty Meadows, VP of Dealer Sales at CarProof.

"Our Cross-Canada lien information will make sure that no enforceable liens exist on the vehicle; critical accident data along with registration and branding information can affirm the integrity of the vehicle; RIV data and Experian U.S. history provide detailed information on U.S. vehicles, their history and when imported if it was done legally and without negative branding.

"CarProof is a small price to pay for peace-of-mind," Meadows continued, "and a must when dealing with a seller that is not a licensed dealer. You need to go the extra mile to protect yourself, your family's safety and your investment."

I am not suggesting you can't buy a car privately. I'm suggesting it is in your best interest to protect yourself and understand the pros and cons associated with who you purchase your next vehicle from.

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2011 Accord SE model CP2E6BE

2011 CR-V LX model RE3H3BEY

THE NEW 2011 CIVIC SPECIAL EDITIONS

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#Lease and finance offers are based on new 2011 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2011 Civic Sedan SE, model FA1E6BJX / 2011 Accord Sedan SE, model CP2E6BE / 2011 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3BEY available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £4.9% / 4.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 36 months. Monthly payment (includes freight and PDI, environmental fees and OMVIC fee) is $247.93 / $328.42/ $327.79. Down payment or equivalent trade of $2,550.00 / $2,750.00 / $3,925.00, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,464.22 / $21,056.00 / $17,904.75. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. 96,000 / 96,000 / 72,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offer based on new 2011 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2011 Civic Sedan SE, model FA1E6BJX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $21,110.00 (includes $1,530.00 freight and PDI, environmental and OMVIC fees) financed at 0.9% APR equals $887.85 per month for 24 months. Cost of borrowing is $198.46 for a total obligation of $21,308.46. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. MSRP is $26,475.00 / $28,015.00 for a new 2011 Accord Sedan SE, model CP2E6BE / 2011 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3BEY and includes $1,685.00 / $1,725.00 freight and PDI, environmental and OMVIC fees. License, insurance, lien registration (if applicable) and taxes are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ∑No payments for 90 days offer applies to purchase finance offers on all new 2010 and 2011 models purchased and delivered by January 3rd, 2011. Offer available only through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. ¥$500.00 Cash Bonus offer applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements on select new 2010 and 2011 Civic, Accord and CR-V models. Cash Bonus offer includes HST/GST where applicable. Valid only on purchase, lease or finance agreements concluded at participating Honda retailers. ◊No purchase necessary. Open to residents of Ontario (age of majority) who are the parent/legal guardian of a child 12 years of age or under. One entry per child. Contest ends December 31st, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Visit www.hondaontario.com/newspaper for full prize descriptions and contest rules. #£/∑/†/¥Offers valid from December 1st, 2010 through January 3rd, 2011 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit www.HondaOntario.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.

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0% purchase financing† up to 72 months
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iPod and iTunes is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Apple is not a sponsor of, nor a participant in this promotion. All rights reserved. **$250/$250/$500/$1,500/$500 Owner Loyalty Cash is available to customers who qualify for the Mazda Owner Renewal Program and can only be applied against the purchase price of a new 2011 Mazda2/2011 Mazda3/2010 Mazda5/2010 Mazda6/2010 CX-7 vehicle. No cash surrender value. Visit Mazda.ca or see dealer for complete details. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on new 2010 and 2011 Mazda vehicles. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $15,390/$17,690/$22,290/$24,890/$29,690 for the new 2011 Mazda2 GX (B5XB51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS51AA00)/2010 Mazda5 GS (E6SD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY60AA00)/2010 Mazda CX-7 GX (PVXY80AA00) with a financed amount of $15,000/$15,000/$20 .000/$20,000/$25,000, the cost of borrowing for a 36/36/72/72/72-month term is $0, monthly payment is $416.67/$416.67/$277.78/$277.78/$347.22, total finance obligation is $15,000/$15,000/$20,000/$20,000/$25,000. Price includes freight, P.D.E. and fees. No payments for 90 days applies to purchase finance offers on all new in-stock 2011 Mazda2 models. The purchaser will repay principal monthly over the term of the contract, commencing 90 days after contract date. *Offered Pricing for new 2011 Mazda2 GX (B5XB51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS51AA00)/2010 Mazda5 GS (E6SD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY60AA00)/2010 Mazda CX-7 GX (PVXY80AA00) is $15,390/$17,690/$22,290/$24,890/$29,690. As shown, Offered Pricing for 2011 Mazda2 GS (B5SB51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 GT (D4TY61AA00)/2010 Mazda5 GT (E6TD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GT-V6 (G4TB80AA00)/2010 Mazda CX-7 GT (PXTJ80AA00) is $19,690/$25,920/$26,190/$38,390/$40,685. All offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. ◊64GB iPod touch® and $50 iTunes® card offer is valid on finance and retail purchases of new 2010 and 2011 models. No substitutions or cash surrender value. Video calling requires Wi-Fi connection. ††Winter tire offer valid on finance and retail purchases of all new 2010 CX-7 and CX-9 models purchased between December 1, 2010 – January 3, 2011. No substitutions or cash surrender value. See your dealer for program details. Wheels and installation extra. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Limited quantities of 2010 Mazda 3's available.Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order or trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid December 1, 2010 – January 3, 2011 while supplies last. Prices subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or or visit Yorkdale Dufferin Mazda - www.yorkdaledufferinmazda.ca for complete details,

▶ Toyota 4Runner

Last-generation 4Runner looks like a solid bet

SECOND GEAR

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Built for real-world off-road capability and all-season motoring confidence, the Toyota 4Runner has enjoyed generations of success with a loyal following of owners.

The last generation 4Runner was available in the Canadian marketplace from 2003 to 2009 and benefitted from V6 or V8 power, plenty of luxurious options and heaps of aftermarket support for the customization enthusiast. Look for up to 260 horsepower with the V8 engine and an automatic transmission on every model.

As a real SUV (not a crossover or jacked-up station wagon), the 4Runner was engineered and built for off-roading, climbing steep, muddy hills and yanking boats out of the lake. If you don't need the full-out capability of a machine with a transfer-case 4x4 system and heavy-duty truck-frame construction, more fuel-efficient options are available.

Ultimately, 4Runner is most appropriate for those seeking off-road adventure, planning to hit the trails, or looking to build a gnarly off-road rig. Look for feature content including a sunroof, driver computer, heated leather, premium audio and much more.

What Owners Like

Last-generation 4Runner owners rate cargo capacity, driving confidence and rugged styling most highly. A comfortable and quiet ride is also frequently reported.

What Owners Hate

Most owners love their 4Runners, and the majority complain almost exclusively about hefty gas consumption.

Common Issues

Shoppers are advised to ensure the 4Runner's previous owner tackled any and all off-road driving carefully. Taking a machine like the 4Runner into some dirt and mud won't hurt it — but doing it carelessly might.

Get underneath and check for heavy denting or scrapes in the floor and frame rails. These may be formed by contact with rocks or logs during careless navigation of rough trails, and could be a sign of abuse. They could also result in excessive rust.

Other signs of heavy off road use may include excessive mud or sand packed into the vehicle's lower radiator area or underside. Finally, inspect the exterior paint for heavy scratching.

If you're considering an earlier model 4Runner in this generation (or the one before it), you'll want to ensure the frame is relatively free of rust — surface or otherwise. Toyota had some very well-documented frame rust issues for several years. These appear to have been corrected for the last-generation 4-Runner, but the condition of its underside should be scrutinized anyhow. Ask a mechanic for help where appropriate.

Finally, be sure to budget for a full fluid change, including the transfer case and rear differential, if you're unsure of the vehicle's service history.

The Verdict

If the used 4Runner you're considering checks out, you're likely looking at a reliable, capable sidekick that'll serve your family for years to come. Remember to budget for a full mechanical check-up, just to be safe.

The 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2003 to 2009 Toyota 4Runner
- **Vehicle type:** 4x4
- **Approximate used price range:** $11,000 to $32,000

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2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown.§

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Dodge.ca/Offers

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Wise customers read the fine print: •, *, †, ♦, ††, §. The Deck the Driveway Holiday Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between December 1, 2010 and January 3, 2011 from participating retailers. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailer for complete details and conditions. •$19,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating retailer for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD with a Purchase Price of $19,995 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $555.41; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $19,995. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ♦The up to $500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, GST and QST. Customers may choose to have the up to $500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from December 1, 2010 through January 3, 2011 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x2/4x4 Sport, Compass 4x2/4x4 Sport, Wrangler 2-Door Sport, Dodge Journey SE, Grand Caravan Cargo Van & Canada Value Package, Caliber CVP & SE Plus, Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2/4x4 and Ram Cab and Chassis). †TCustomer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on most new 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models (except Grand Caravan Cargo Van and Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts: **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your retailer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear; mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Example: 2010 Dodge Journey SXT (22K) with a Purchase Price of $22,495 financed at 2.99% over 60 months with payment amortized over 83 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $138 and one final payment of $6,793 for a cost of borrowing of $2,238 and a total obligation of $24,732.98. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes are higher and payable at the time of delivery. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less or lease. ††Based on Canadian new vehicle retail sales for 2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD compared to other new vehicles in the mid-size crossover segment. ‡Based on 2010 Dodge Journey with optional Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Side Curtain Air Bags. ^Based on Canadian new vehicle retail sales for 2010 Dodge Journey. §Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring system for 2010 model year Dodge Journey. ‡‡SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ® Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Communications LLC, used under license. ^Based on January through October 2010 R.L. Polk sales total registrations.

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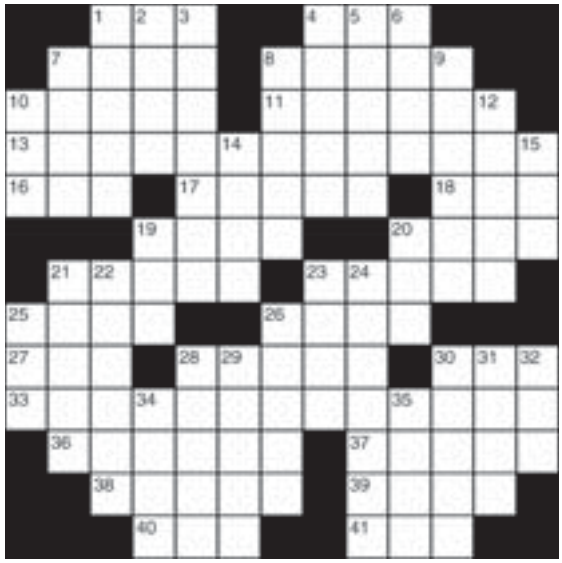
Crossword



Across

1 Part of a Halloween costume
4 You say it to the doctor
7 Femur or fibula
8 Related to birds
10 Soft chapeau
11 "Dueling" instruments
13 Burroughs duo
16 Distorted
17 Witticisms
18 Fish eggs
19 Inlet
20 Out of control
21 Investigate
23 Brittle
25 Three- — sloth
26 Objective
27 Mimic
28 Chef's garb
30 "Wham!"
33 Stevenson duo
36 Closed up tight
37 Broadcast
38 Small amounts
39 Caustic solutions
40 Sandra or Ruby
41 Remiss

Down

1 Fret
2 Noted 1966 hurricane
3 1958 No. 1 hit for the Silhouettes
4 — -garde
5 Harts' mates
6 Muslims' pilgrimage
7 Tolerate
8 Lower in rank
9 Venus de Milo's feature
10 Texter's "incidentally"
12 Pry
14 Actress Campbell
15 Hair-raising shriek
19 Massachusetts cape
20 Have a bug
21 Vatican VIPs
22 Stunk
23 Maine — (breed of cat)
24 TV's Felix Unger
25 — Mahal
26 Alumni
28 Sitcom oldie, "Kate & —"
29 Academy freshman
30 Heat-resistant glass
31 Tributes in verse
32 Marry
34 Three feet
35 Informal greeting

▶ Yesterday's answer

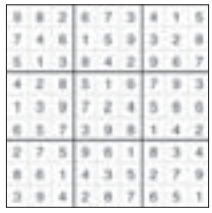
Sudoku

					8	3		6
3	7		5	9				4
	6							
1		3			2	6		
4								2
		8	3			4		5
							4	
9				5	1		2	7
2		4	8					

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



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Cristina, i feel so lucky to be with you. I am excited for all the great memories we are going to make during these holidays.
LOVE , YOUR MAN, ARTHUR

Ashley & Amy, You are two amazing young ladies and I am blessed to have you as my sisters. Enjoy your 12 days of Christmas ;)
LOVE, OMA

Happy 3 yr Anniversary Mi Amor. You are a friend for always and life. You had me at one dance. Knowing you was all my pleasure. I just want you to know that you are my teasure. Stay sweet and caring always. I will always and forever love you.
L.F.A.A.

Sending all my love on this wintery morning. Growing old and wrinkly together is going to be quite the adventure and I feel so lucky to be doing it with you. **BORK!**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Reach out to employers today. If they make promises, get them to put them in writing. What they agree to today may not be what they want to do tomorrow.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The more you expect of other people today, the more disappointed you are likely to be. Saying something and doing it are two entirely different things, so don't count your chickens just yet.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 The planets warn if you act too fast today you are likely to do more harm than good. No matter how bad things may seem, there is still time to think before you take action.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you suspect that someone is not being completely truthful today, don't make a big fuss about it. Sooner or later, he or she will let you know what's going on.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You may be thinking about a career change but the planets urge you to sleep on the idea. Chances are you are not thinking straight. The next few days will bring new opportunities, so don't change yet.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 This is not really the best time to be looking a long way ahead. In fact, you should be looking at what is in front of you right now. The next step you take is the one that matters.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Put your worries out of your head and start believing that your dream will come true. Success is as much about imagination as it is about hard work.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You can be judgmental at times, but today you must make a conscious effort not to be critical. You don't have to like what a friend or relative is doing but you have to accept that it's the right move for him or her.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 As a Fire sign, you are no stranger to taking risks. Over the next two or three days, you will be tempted to do things that most people would never attempt. But that's why you are special.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Make sure that any claims you make are backed by facts. Sometimes it can be fun to make things up, but you will lose others' trust and respect if you try it today.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You have an envious ability to see further and deeper than most people. But are you making good use of it? Shouldn't you be helping others see the truth, too?

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You have suspicions that someone is telling you lies; but how do you prove it? Maybe it's not worth the effort. Thank them for their advice — and do what you were going to do anyway.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

JERRY HOLT/AP/THE STAR-TRIBUNE

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An Important Notice Regarding Your Personal Health

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is working with Ontario's health care providers to build a system in which your health care provider will have improved access to your personal health information including your laboratory test results.

The collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information are subject to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)* and this notice is being issued to provide you with information to help you to decide whether or not you want to share your information. The ministry is also subject to PHIPA.

For All Ontarians

Currently, laboratories submit your test results back to the health care provider who ordered the test(s) and any other practitioner copied on a requisition form. However, there may be several other health care providers involved in your care, who would not have access to your laboratory test information. The Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS) is an electronic system that will allow hospital and community laboratories to share your lab test results with health care providers, and will be a component of the Electronic Health Record.

As of mid-December 2010, the ministry will assume custody and control of patients' laboratory test information that is submitted to and stored in OLIS. MOHLTC will then begin providing your test results to eHealth Ontario, to enable eHealth Ontario to share this information electronically with your health care providers. eHealth Ontario is the public agency that is working to deliver a secure and private electronic health care system for all Ontarians. As an agent of MOHLTC, eHealth Ontario can share this information electronically with any health care provider who delivers your health care in Ontario. MOHLTC will use and disclose your information only as permitted by law, and work to ensure that your information is secure and your privacy is respected.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your privacy is important. As a patient, you can withdraw or reinstate your consent for MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests to access your laboratory test information contained in OLIS. If you choose to withdraw your consent, MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests will not have access to this information through OLIS. Choosing to withdraw your consent will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider(s), who will continue to provide care to you.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

If you wish to withdraw or reinstate consent for MOHLTC or health care providers to access your test results submitted to OLIS, or for more information about this public notice, please call 1-800-291-1406 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095). For more information on OLIS, visit **ontario.ca/yourhealthprivacy.**

For Ontarians Living with Diabetes

There are three key tests that people living with diabetes should receive on a regular basis. They are:

- the HbA1C blood glucose control test, which patients should receive at least every six months;
- the LDL-C cholesterol test, which patients should receive every year, and
- a retinal eye exam, which patients should receive every two years.

The Diabetes Testing Report was created to keep your primary care provider (physician or nurse practitioner) informed of when you last had each of these three tests.

People living with diabetes who are tested regularly are better able to manage their diabetes and avoid complications. The Report will help you and your primary care provider better manage your diabetes care by reminding him or her if you are overdue for an HbA1C test, LDL-C test, or retinal eye exam, and it will encourage you and your primary care provider to talk about your diabetes care.

Protecting Your Privacy

In order to create the Diabetes Testing Report, your primary care provider may share personal health information, including your name, health number and date of birth, with the MOHLTC. He or she will also confirm whether you have diabetes. In response, the MOHLTC will share the most recent dates of each of the three tests with your provider. Your privacy is important, however, and you are not required to have your information included in this report.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

You may decide that you do not want your primary care provider to disclose your information to the MOHLTC, and that you do not wish to be included in your provider's Diabetes Testing Reports. If you choose to withhold or withdraw your consent, this will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider and he or she will continue to provide care to you.

If you wish to withhold or withdraw your consent to having your information disclosed by your primary care provider and in any Diabetes Testing Reports that MOHLTC sends to your primary care provider, call 1-800-291-1405 (TTY: 1-800-387-5559). If you withheld or withdrew your consent to have your information included on the Diabetes Testing Report in the Spring of 2010, you do not need to withhold or withdraw your consent again; if you wish to reinstate your consent, you can do so by calling the number above.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information for the purposes of the Diabetes Testing Report, call the numbers listed above. For more information about diabetes, visit **ontario.ca/diabetes.**

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KIA WINTERFEST

EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

FINAL MONTH!

0% FINANCING FOR UP TO **84** MOS.** ON SELECT MODELS

HUGE CASH SAVINGS^

PAY UNTIL SPRING^

ALL VEHICLES INCLUDE: BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY° MP3/USB INPUT

4 DOOR SEDAN

2011 KIA RIO

Rio EX shown

0% FINANCING APR FOR 84 MONTHS**

WITH PAYMENTS STARTING AS LOW AS **$181**‡ PER MONTH FOR 84 MONTHS

Offer includes: Delivery, destination and fees **$1,489**

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^ AND DON'T PAY UNTIL SPRING^

HWY: 5.8L/100KM (49 MPG) CITY: 7.1L/100KM (40 MPG)

60/40 SPLIT REAR FOLDING SEATS

6-WAY DRIVER'S SEAT

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

WAS ~~$15,995~~

2011 KIA SOUL

Soul 4u shown

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM **$13,995**

+ Delivery, destination and fees **$1,684**

ALL-IN PRICE **$15,679**‡

NOW GET UP TO **$2,000** IN CASH SAVINGS

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 6.3L/100KM (45 MPG) CITY: 7.7L/100KM (37 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

auto123.com 2011 COMPACT SUV OF THE YEAR^

ALL-NEW

2011 KIA SPORTAGE

Sportage EX luxury shown

LEASE FROM **$299**‹ PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS

Offer includes: Delivery, destination and fees **$1,784**

AT **3.9%** LEASE APR

$2,620 DOWN PAYMENT

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 6.9L/100KM (41 MPG) CITY: 10.0L/100KM (28 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AVAILABLE

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

WAS ~~$23,995~~

2011 KIA SORENTO

Sorento EX-V6 luxury shown

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM **$19,895**

+ Delivery, destination and fees **$1,784**

ALL-IN PRICE **$21,679**‡

NOW GET UP TO **$4,100** IN CASH SAVINGS

AVAILABLE COMPETITIVE BONUS **$1,000**^

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 7.4L/100KM (38 MPG) CITY: 10.6L/100KM (27 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AVAILABLE

5 YEAR WARRANTY — WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

*5-YEAR/100,000 KM WORRY-FREE COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY
*5 YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
*5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
*NO DEDUCTIBLE CHARGE

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It's **FREE** and it's incredibly rewarding.

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Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399-$699), licensing, PPSA, or applicable taxes.

$500 Grad Rebate | Kia Mobility Program | CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

0% purchase financing available on select 2010 and 2011 Kia models for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). 0% purchase financing available on all 2010 and 2011 Kia Rios for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). Financing example based on Kia Rio (RIO74SA) with cash purchase price of $18,534. 0% financing for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0. Delivery and destination fee ($1,455) and other fees ($100 + $34) included. Admin fee, license, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. **No Payments Until Spring 2011" (120 day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all new 2010 and 2011 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. ^Win up to $10,000 towards your purchase or lease of any new 2010/2011 Kia model. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest closes January 3rd, 2011. Credit awards are tax-inclusive and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of new 2010 and 2011 Kia vehicles delivered out of dealer stock on or before January 3rd, 2011. All participants will receive an award consisting of a credit award in an amount varying from $500 to $10,000. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Potential award recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions may apply, please see your Kia dealer for full contest rules. ‡Cash purchase price for 2011 Sorento (SR54DB)/2011 Soul (SO55DB) is $21,679/$15,679 and includes a cash credit of $4,100/$2,000 and delivery and destination fees ($1,650/$1,650), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable), based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $23,995/$15,995. ‹Cash savings vary by model and trim. ‹Monthly lease payment for 2011 Sportage (SP55BB) is $299 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $2,620 down payment. Total lease obligation is $16,994 with the option to purchase at end of term for $9,346. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, OMVIC fee, environmental fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. ‹ Monthly payment for 2011 Rio (RIO54DB) starts at $181 for 84 months at 0% finance APR based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $13,695. Delivery and Destination fees ($1,455), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. ^$1,000 competitive bonus available to current select competitive SUV owners. Please see dealer for eligibility and full details. +Highway/city fuel consumption for 2011 Sorento 2.4L MT (SR54DB) is 7.4 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG); 2011 Rio (RIO54DB) is 5.8 L (49 MPG)/7.1 L (40 MPG); 2011 Soul (SO55DB) is 6.3L (45 MPG)/7.7L (37 MPG)/ 2011 Sportage (SP55IB) is 6.9 L (41 MPG)/10.0 L (28 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ^2011 Kia Sorento/2010 Kia Soul/ 2011 Kia Sportage awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable on all 2011 Sorento/2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^ 2011 Kia Sportage voted best compact SUV of the year by auto123.com. ^2011 Consumer's Digest Best Buy Award awarded to the 2011 Kia Soul and 2011 Kia Sorento. Visit www.consumersdigest.com for full details.®The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Some conditions apply to the $500 / $750, Grad Rebate Program / Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Offers end January 3rd, 2011. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.